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# OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

*Opinions of Ancient and Modern Physicians,*

INCLUDING THOSE OF THE LATE

*DR CULLEN,*

RESPECTING THE NATURE AND CAUSE

OF THE

UTERINE DISCHARGE.

ALSO,

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OPINIONS

OF

*DR CULLEN*

ON AMENNORRHÆA, OR GREEN-SICKNESS,

OF

*DR SAUNDERS*

ON DISEASES OF THE LIVER,

OF

*DR THOMAS*

ON CAHIXIA AFRICANA, AND

OF

*DR BEDDOES ON SCROFULA.*

AND

Remarks on the Method of Cure of what has been called Chlorosis, Amenorrhœa, or Green-sickness, as delivered to us by our late Preceptor, and other eminent Physicians.

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BY

A. FOGO, SURGEON, &c.

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*Judicium difficile.*

HIPPOC.

*Doctors disagree.*

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## P R E F A C E.

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*IT* will be deemed by many an instance of great presumption, that *I* should dare to harbour opinions so diametrically opposite to medical men of the first character, in ancient and modern times.

*Amicus Plato, sed magis Amica Veritas.*

The affection *I* have for my fellow creatures, the health and prosperity of the female part of the human species lying near the heart, and so intimately connected with the happiness of every man and woman of natural affection, whether parent or otherwise, with other reasons unnecessary to be mentioned, have induced me to offer these observations to the perusal of those who are the natural or deputed guardians of young people.

*I have long differed in opinion with the writers on some of the following subjects, but living many years in an insulated situation, and cut off from all correspondence with medical men, I was ignorant of their practice. But removing to a populous town, I soon met with several unfortunate instances of the injudicious treatment of young women, who were thought to be labouring under the supposed diseases called chlorosis, green-sickness, obstructions, &c.; and by treating them in a very different manner, I felt extremely happy in restoring them to health.*

*The above reasons, I hope, will be admitted as an apology for offering the following observations, &c. to the public. And if the Author should hear that they have tended to save the life of one female, the object of adoration of her justly fond parents, it will contribute in a great degree to his happiness.*

*The fastidious reader may probably think that I have treated some parts of the subject with a degree of levity incompatible with*

*the usual gravity of medical writers. Instead of making an apology, I declare, that if I had been possessed of strong satyrical powers, they should have been exerted to the utmost, in hopes of banishing such absurd theory and practice from the system of physic.*

*Newcastle, March 1, 1803.*



From the bills of mortality and the records of medicine, it is manifest that complaints of slow progress occasion as much destruction as those of an opposite nature. And if this be true, it will follow, that they must occasion much more distress. Hence it becomes the writers on preventive medicine to treat the more *formidable chronic disorders* with particular care. There is nothing capable of effectually banishing false security but a knowledge of the connection between *first slight appearances*, and the secret operations of fatal causes.

DR BEDDOES' HYG. No. 6.

## OBSERVATIONS, &c.

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THE appearance of bad health in young women, about the age of puberty, has been generally said to have been owing to one and the same cause, the retention of a small quantity of found blood, which ought to have been discharged, by some vessels belonging to the parts of generation, at particular times, at about the distance of a month. The imaginary disease has had various names applied to it; such as amenorrhæa, chlorosis, green-sickness, suppression of the menses, the want of *them*, *those*, the courses, the flowers, &c. The meaning of one or other of these expressions must be known by every body. Some of these names are insignificant, others unjust; and the name of flower, in the Author's opinion, is the only just and significant one he knows of, as will be explained afterwards.

This want of *them*, the retention or suppression of *those*, has unfortunately and unaccountably been supposed, by medical men of all ages, as the cause of all the bad health of the suffering

female. The subject, as is too often the case, has been taken up by the wrong end, the effect has been taken for the cause, which, of necessity, has led, and must lead, to an absurd and dangerous practice.

Medical writers have described this appearance in the human female as one of the most curious phænomena, and most difficult to be accounted for, of any in the system of physic; and many laboured, learned, hypotheses have been framed to account for the secretion: but no two theorists have agreed in accounting for it. It has been the general opinion, that the small quantity of blood lost before pregnancy was intended for the nourishment of the child, as it is commonly retained during pregnancy.

It is not my intention to examine these opinions with any great degree of minuteness. Many arguments may be advanced against all or most of the theories I have seen or heard of. I will mention some of the most popular: viz.

1. Plethora, or fullness of the vessels in general, or of those of a particular part, as of the uterus.

2. Effervescence, or fermentation of the humours, in the vessels.

3. The effects of the influence of the sun and moon.



4. The large size of the female pelvis, being generally larger than that in the male.

5. The erect posture of the human species.

6. That women are more liable to plethora than men, on account of their systems being more relaxed, and their vessels more readily giving way to the force of the circulating fluids.

7. That they do not perspire so freely, which occasions an accumulation of humours, which at last force their way through the vessels of the uterus, as being more easily stretched open than those of any other part of the body.

8. That the retention, during pregnancy, is for the nourishment of the child.

9. That the blood discharged is of a bad quality.

1. That plethora is not the cause of the discharge at first, or at any succeeding period, is evident, from observing the various and apparently opposite constitutions and temperaments of young women to be met with every day. Young women of the same age, let their constitutions be fat or lean, complexions be black, brown, or fair, provided they are in good health, have the discharge about the same age, and in a similar quantity. That women of delicate constitutions lose more than those of an opposite description. The robust plethoric virago, whose florid com-

plexion conveys the idea that there is no scarcity of blood in her vessels, does not lose more, nor so much as her delicately blanced mistress, whose lips and gums are as white as any part of her skin; and we see, every day, that women at a certain age grow what may be called plethoric, and yet the discharge ceases.

II. The next theory is that of effervescence and fermentation; the authors of which must have had notions of the process and results of fermentation very different from those of modern chymists, who all expect a quantity of air or gas to arise from effervescing and fermenting mixtures. Many experiments have proved that a small quantity of air, being introduced into the blood vessel of a living animal, causes death in a short time. Nor have the authors ever been able to show the slightest appearance of air in the blood vessels of a sound animal.

III. That it was the effects of the influence of the sun or moon, or both combined. If it was caused by any of these it must be more regular, and follow exactly like the tides. But it is certain that in the most healthy the discharge begins one or more days sooner, or later, than the space of either a solar or lunar month, at each succeeding period.

IV. That it is owing to the greater dimen-

tions of the female pelvis, that women suffer the discharge, which does not take place in men; because the parts contained within these bones, have more room to expand, and to be filled with blood. This, like other theories, has no foundation in truth: the female pelvis is too often found to be as small as that of the male, of a similar stature, yet the women enjoyed good health, and had the discharge as other women, and as capable of impregnation. But, allowing the female pelvis to be larger than that of the male, as it contains an additional organ, it ought to be larger in proportion. It is also wisely ordered to be so, for the more commodiously lodging the fœtus, and for the more easily bringing it forth.

v. The erect posture of the human body has been supposed the cause of the discharge. It will be shown hereafter that though other animals do not lose so much red blood yet they have a discharge of a similar nature, when of a certain age; but, as it is in a small quantity, the retention of it cannot be expected to nourish their young.

vi. That women are more liable to plethora than men: this is by no means general, either in the human species or in other animals.

vii. That women do not perspire so much as



men. As this circumstance has never been brought to the test of experiment, I am inclined to deny it; having often seen women, under similar exercise, perspire as freely as the men. This, like all the foregoing, is only a supposition, and an attempt to account for this natural secretion. We are, further, told by travellers, that in the hottest climates, where the perspiration, I suppose, is greatest, the uterine discharge is also greatest; and that in the coldest climates, where the perspiration must be very slight, the discharge is equally so.

VIII. All seem to agree in one circumstance, that the discharge is suppressed during pregnancy, for the purpose of nourishing the child: there seems as little foundation for this opinion, as for any of the others; there is no proof of any red blood passing from the uterus to the child thro' the placenta. The blood contained in the body of the child must be made by its own powers; and as other animals, who have not so great a secretion, bring their young to equal perfection, the opinion may be given up. There can be no secretion from the uterus during pregnancy, as its whole internal surface is covered by the placenta and membranes. I have known a few exceptions to the above circumstance; the discharge has continued several months after conception.

ix. Another idle notion is, that the blood is of a bad quality, and that the constitution has a power of collecting it, and throwing it off periodically. If this opinion is just, the child must be nourished by this noxious blood: As other secretions are going on, and must be intimately mixed with the pure blood, at the time of the periodical discharge, it must be impossible to analyze the mixture, so as to know whether the blood secreted was pure or impure.

I shall conclude by presenting my reader with the theory of the late illustrious Dr. Cullen: It, like his other doctrines and opinions, is ingenious and natural. He observes,

“ That growth of the body depends upon the increase of the quantity of fluids, giving occasion to the distention of the vessels, and thus producing the gradual evolution and full growth of the whole system. This evolution does not happen equally in every part of the body at the same time, but successively, according to the different size and density of the several vessels determined by the original stamina. Thus the upper parts of the body first acquire their natural size, and then the lower extremities. By the same constitution it seems to be determined, that the uterus of the human species should not be considerably evolved, till the rest of the body



is nearly arrived at its full bulk. But as the vessels of every part, by their distention and growth, increase in density, and give thereby more resistance to their further growth, at the same time, by the same resistance, they determine the blood in greater quantity into the parts not yet equally evolved. By this means the whole of the system must be successively evolved, till every part is brought to that degree of distention which is necessary to bring them to a balance in respect of density and resistance with one another. Upon these principles there will be a period in the growth of the body, when the vessels of the uterus will be distended, till they arrive in a balance with the rest of the system; and their constitution may be such, that their distention may proceed so far, as to open their extremities, terminating in the cavity of the uterus, so as to pour out blood there; or, it may happen that a certain degree of distention may be sufficient, to irritate and increase the action of the vessels, and thereby to produce an hæmorrhagic effort, which may force the extremities of the vessels with the same effect of pouring out blood.

“ In either way, he accounts for the first appearance of a flow of blood from the uterus in women. In order to this, he does not suppose

any general plethora in the system than what is constantly necessary to the successive evolution of the several parts of it; and he proceeds upon the supposition that the evolution of each particular part must especially depend upon the plethora, or increased congestion, in its proper vessels. Thus he supposes it to happen to the uterus; but, as its plethoric state, he observes, produces an evacuation of blood from its vessels, this evacuation must empty these vessels more especially, and put them again into a relaxed state with respect to the rest of the system. This emptied and relaxed state of the vessels of the uterus will give occasion to a new congestion of blood in them, till they are brought to that degree of distention that may either force their extremities, or produce a new hæmorrhagic effort, that may have the same effect. Thus an evacuation of blood from the uterus being once begun, by the causes before mentioned, it must, by the operation of the same causes, return after a certain period, and must continue to do so till particular circumstances occasion a considerable change in the constitution of the uterus.

“ What determines the periods of these returns to be nearly in the space of a month he cannot exactly explain; but supposes it to de-

pend on a certain balance, between the vessels of the uterus and those of the other parts of the body. This must determine the first periods; and, when it does so, it can be understood that a considerable increase or diminution of the quantity of the blood in the whole system, will have but little effect in increasing or diminishing the quantity distributed to the uterus. It may also be further observed, that when the evacuation has been repeated for some time, at regular periods, it may be supposed that the *power of habit*, which so readily takes place in the animal system, may have a great share in determining the periodical motions of the uterus to be with great regularity, though in the mean time considerable changes may have happened with respect to the whole system."

The above account of Dr Cullen's theory is copied from Dr Hamilton's out-lines of the theory and practice of midwifery, and was printed, as is said, by permission of the doctor himself.

Dr. Hamilton adds, " This theory, however, is still liable to so many objections that another opinion has been lately introduced to notice, viz. that the menstrual discharge is a secretion from the uterus."

" The chief arguments in favour of this doc-



trine are founded on the structure of the uterus, and the appearance and qualities of the evacuated fluids, which are totally different from those of blood."

"The purposes which the calamenia serve have not yet been satisfactorily explained."

The above theory of our venerable Preceptor is so far from being "still liable to so many objections" thas it is extremely ingenious, and is strictly analagous to the works of nature, through the systems of animals and vegetables, as I shall attempt to prove in the following pages.

That "the menstrual discharge is a secretion from the uterus" is undeniable, but that "the appearances and qualities of the evacuated fluid are totally different from those of blood" I do not believe. What appearances and qualities the blood may acquire after secretion is another question. That blood secreted by wounds and ulcers takes on a very different appearance and quality, according to circumstances, is well known. The same may take place, in some degree, with the secretion in question, but as it is not secreted by any glandular structure it can undergo very little change.

The attention of physiologists has been so much occupied in accounting for the discharge of a small quantity of blood from the parts of

generation of the female; or for what Dr Cullen properly calls an evolution of the uterus, that they have universally overlooked or forgot every thing similar in the male, and also in the works of nature at large.

They have never paid the least attention to exactly a similar evolution in the male, which takes place nearly at the same age, and is attended by nearly every circumstance as takes place in the female.

If the reader will apply Dr Cullen's theory to the evolution of the parts of generation of the male, he will find it to be nearly to the following purpose, *mutatis mutandis* :—

“ Upon these principles, there were will be a period in the growth of the body, when the vessels of the Testes will be distended, till they are in a balance with the rest of the system; and their constitution may be such that their distention may proceed so far as to open their extremities terminating in the cavities of the spermatic vesicles, so as to pour out the semen there; or, it may happen that a certain degree of distention may be sufficient to irritate and increase the action of the vessels, and thereby to produce a spermatic effort, which may force the extremities of the vessels with the same effect of pouring out semen.



“ In either way, he accounts for the first appearance of the flow of semen from the seminal vessels of men, &c. &c.

“ Thus an evacuation of the semen from the vessels being once begun, by the causes before-mentioned, it must, by the operation of the same causes, return after a certain period, and must continue to do so, till particular circumstances occasion a considerable change in the constitution of the parts.”

There are many evolutions occur in the systems of the male as well as female, equally wonderful with the evolution of the parts of generation: for an instance, the growth and appearance of the teeth in the jaws of children under two years old. This is indisputably entitled to the name of evolution. In the course of six years many of these teeth fall out and are succeeded by others: this is also another evolution; but no man will attempt to prove that the last is owing to the *power of habit*.

Under a certain age the body of a female is of a cylindrical shape. If there is any difference in the circumference or diameter, the greatest is at the middle or umbelical region. At a certain age, if the female is in health, the ribs and clavicles extend very rapidly: the thorax is suddenly and greatly enlarged; the scapulæ, from

almost touching one another, are separated to the distance of several inches. Instead of the cylindrical shape the upper part of the body acquires that of an inverted cone. The mammæ are greatly enlarged.

“ Her breasts, impatient of controul,  
Scorn under silken bands to lye,  
And the soft language of the soul  
Flows from her never silent eye.”\*

There seems something like an evolution at this age takes place in the eyes as well as other other parts which many young men have felt the effects of. The bones which compose the pelvis are extended in a similar manner, and at the same time as those of the thorax; and instead of the diameter at the umbilicus being equal or greater than those of the thorax or pelvis it is now by much the smallest. These shapes continue in the same proportion through, life unless the much wished for respectable tumor reverses them for a time. The muscles in general acquire sudden and great bulk. She grows fat, lusty, or plethoric. And then comes the *wonder of wonders*, the discharge of a small quantity of blood from the vessels of the uterus. And the puling, dispassionate girl becomes a woman,

\* Armine and Elvira.

with passions and inclinations suitable to the sex.

What are all these but evolutions? What is the secretion of milk from the vessels of the mammæ after parturition, but an evolution of the lactiferous vessels? A woman will lose from one to four or more pounds of blood during and in consequence of parturition; but in forty-eight hours her breasts will be so full of blood as to occasion great pain and inconvenience, threatening inflammation and suppuration; and milk will flow from the nipples in great quantities, besides satisfying the child.

At first sight, one might suppose that instead of losing one or more pounds that an equal quantity of blood had been introduced into the habit, and that there was more than a state of health required.

The wonder about a few ounces of blood being discharged from the vessels of the uterus in the space of three days, once in a month, is nothing to this. It is much more wonderful as there is nothing analagous to it in any other animals. Other animals can suckle their young as soon as brought forth, but other animals do not lose blood at the time of parturition. The whole circumstance is nothing but a characteristic, which distinguishes the noblest from the inferior animals of the creation.



The above circumstances have never been noticed by medical writers; but the attempts to account for the wonder of wonders, the evolution of the uterus, and the discharge of a small quantity of blood, have wasted more time, paper and ink than any subject in physic.

In the male, about the same age, several evolutions are observable. The cartilages at the top of the trachea are enlarged, by which the feminine voice is changed into a rough croaking sound, which in a few months is changed into a strong masculine tone. Hairs, the roots of which, anatomists say, are discoverable in infancy, now make their appearance on the face, breast, &c. The moping, dispassionate, school-boy starts into a man, and is surprized at several unthought of inclinations and passions he now feels. These are all evolutions.

The vessels of the uterus which discharge the menses, and those which secrete the *semen masculinum* appear to be without action for twelve or more years: when they at once, without any evident cause, if the parties are in health, produce fluids unknown in the system before that period, and which they “continue to do, till particular circumstances occasion a considerable change in the constitution of the parts.”

In examining into obscure subjects, where the

causes cannot be discovered or proved; it is allowed to reason by comparison or analogy. There is nothing more wonderful in the evolution of the parts of generation of the human species, and in the discharge of a small quantity of blood or semen at a time when they arrive at an age at which they are capable of the male impregnating the female, and producing one or more of their own species, than there is of a vegetable, consisting of a root, a green stem covered with leaves of a similar colour, producing a red flower at a certain age. And, as before, substituting the plant for body or system, and flower for uterus, we will have the following explanation on Dr Cullen's theory.

“ The growth of the plant depends on the quantity of fluids, distending the vessels, and occasioning an evolution of the different parts at different times. That the flower is the last part so evolved. Upon these principles, there will be a period in the growth of the plant, when the vessels of the flower will be distended till they are in a balance with the rest of the plant, and that the distention may occasion a dilatation of the vessels of the flower, so as to pour out a fluid there,” &c. &c.

It is proved by many experiments that a vegetable is an inferior or imperfect animal; and it



appears evident that the flower performs every action similar to the uterus of animals: upon being evolved, impregnation takes place, that gestation and parturition follow.

We see these appearances take place in animals and vegetables at various distances of time, but we may not be able to account for the causes. We see effects, but know nothing of causes—excepting a few experiments with the mechanical powers, we know nothing; not even the causes of our own trifling actions.

If we are ignorant of the cause, and are astonished to see a red flower issue from the top of a green plant, we may be more astonished that all green plants do not produce red flowers. If a man was to attempt to explain the reason why all flowers were not of the same colour, his book would contain the same suppositions and maybes which those about this wonderful discharge do, and the books would be equally puzzling and uninstrucing. Although Dr Cullen has accounted for the first appearance of the discharge very ingeniously he has not been so fortunate in accounting for its periodical return. He thinks the *power of habit* may have a great share in causing the repetitions. Can the power of habit make the hellebore flower in December, or the very delicate leucojum in January,

when covered with snow; or the apple tree to blossom on almost the same day in each succeeding year; or an ugly worm to be changed into a beautiful fly; or a pair of goldfinches of eleven months old to construct a most elegant warm nest, so like that in which they were hatched that the most attentive naturalist cannot discover one article in the old but what is in the new? Can the power of habit occasion the migration of birds and fishes? “The stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow, observe the time of their coming.” *JEREM.*

“Who taught the nations of the field and wood  
To shun their poison, and to chuse their food?  
Prescient, the tides or tempests to withstand,  
Build on the wave, or arch beneath the sand?  
Who made the Spider parallels design,  
Sure as De Moivre, without rule or line?  
Who bid the stork, Columbus like, explore  
Heav’ns not his own, and worlds unknown  
(before?

Who calls the council, states the certain day,  
Who forms the phalanx, and who points the  
(way?” *POPE.*

“Deus est quodcunque vides.” *LUCAN.*

“All, all, where e’er you look, is full of God.”

“ Mens agitat molem.”

*VIRG.*

“ God actuates this universal frame.”

“ Deum namque ire per amnes  
Terrasque tractusque maris, cœlumque pro-  
(fundum.” *VIRG.*

“ For God the whole created mass inspires,  
Through heaven, and earth, and oceans depth  
( he throws  
His influence round, and kindles as he goes.”

*DRYDEN.*

“ Qui mare et terras, variisque mundum  
(temperat horis.

Unde nil majus generatur ipso;  
Nec viget quicquam simile, aut secundum. *HOR.*

“ Who guides below and rules above,  
The great disposer, and the mighty king.

Than whom none greater, next him none,  
That can be, is, or was,  
Supreme, he singly fills the throne.” *CREECH.*

“ All are but parts of the stupendous whole,  
Whose body nature is, and God the soul;  
That chang'd thro' all, and yet in all the same;  
Great in the earth, as in the ætherial frame;  
Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,  
Glow's in the stars, and blossoms in the trees,  
Lives thro' all life, extends thro' all extent,  
Spreads undivided, operates unspent;



Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal part,  
 As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart;  
 As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,  
 As the rapt seraph that adores and burns :  
 To him, no high, no low, no great, no small;  
 He fills, he bounds, connects, and equals all."

*POPE.*

" These, as they change, Almighty Father, these,  
 Are but the varied God. The rolling year  
 Is full of Thee. Forth in the pleasing spring  
 Thy beauty walks, Thy tenderness and love.  
 Wide flush the fields; the softning air is balm,  
 Echo the mountains round, the forest smiles;  
 Then comes Thy glory in the summer months,  
 With light and heat refulgent. Then Thy sun  
 Shoots full perfection thro' the swelling year.  
 Thy bounty shines in Autumn unconfin'd,  
 And spreads a common feast for all that lives.  
 In winter, awful Thou ! with clouds and storms  
 Around Thee thrown, tempest on tempest roll,  
 Majestic darkness ! on the whirl-winds wing  
 Riding sublime, Thou bidst the world adore,  
 And humblest nature with thy northern blast.  
 Mysterious round ! what skill, what force divine  
 Deep felt in these appear !"

*THOMSON.*

" As thou knowest not what is the way of  
 the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the

womb of her that is with child ; even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all."

*ECCLESIASTES.*

Lastly, I ask, can the " power of habit" occasion the earth to move round its axis, or cause it to travel round the sun ?

" The universal cause

" Acts to one end, but acts by various laws."

*POPE.*

The foregoing quotations, contain some of the opinions of three distinct kinds of writers. The sacred or inspired ; the pagan or profane, (as they have been ignominiously called;) and the most conscientious believers of the christian religion. Many more might be collected, if necessary. They are all so exactly similar, that it would appear the same spirit had inspired the whole. And, although wrote at very different and distant periods, they are so much alike that we cannot apply "*Doctors disagree*" to them. They seem sufficient to put doctors to the blush, as they are seldom or never observed to agree, even in matters much more evident to the senses than those above. They are so unanimous, that a man cannot be wrong if he subscribes to their opinions. There is not the least hint about the "*power of habit*" having any share in the business.



We see animals and vegetables are only capable of being impregnated at certain ages and seasons. An annual vegetable goes through all the processes of growth, impregnation, gestation, and parturition, in the course of twelve months, and dies; others require two, others three years, to perform the same. The same is the case with inferior animals and insects. The vegetables of larger growth, are not completely evolved under six or more years. Some animals are capable of being impregnated at the age of twelve months; others, of a more perfect kind, require two, three, twelve, sixteen years. The greatest wisdom appears in the ordering of these matters, which need not be pointed out to an observer of moderate penetration.

We know, from experience and observation, that a young woman is capable of being impregnated, and of being able to produce one of her own species, after a small quantity of blood has been discharged from the parts of generation, or, in more expressive terms, after she has flowered. That she is not capable of these actions before she has flowered. And that women, who never flowered, have been barren.

The parts of generation of all our domestic viviparous animals are evolved in the same manner at certain ages; and undergo similar

changes, and put on similar appearances, as the human. Though the parts of the females do not discharge red blood, there is great tumefaction, and a discharge of a serous nature, sometimes tinged with blood. Some of them are in that situation only once a year, others four, five, or six times, and produce young as often. The same appearance takes place in the female of the human species, when unimpregnated, and in health, twelve times a-year. It is natural to her, and ordered to be so for very evident reasons. There is nothing more wonderful in it than there is in observing a red, yellow, blue, or white flower appear on the top of a green plant, of one year old, or on a tree of fifteen.

If a man had never seen a plant he would wonder when he saw a few green leaves rise out of the earth, after he had buried a pea. His wonder would increase as the stalk increased, but he would be more astonished, when a leaf of a beautiful red colour, and fragrant smell, issued from the top, succeeded by very grateful fruit.

I have sometimes amused myself by considering what our mother Eve would think of these proceedings. As she had no experienced female to explain the appearances, she would wonder when the flower appeared; her surprize would

be increased when she felt something, as if alive, within her : But, her astonishment would be at the highest, when a lusty boy saluted her ears with a loud scream.

Her daughters, now seeing such things happen daily, so far from being surprised, some of them wish for nothing so much as to feel something alive within them.

The male and female of the canine and other species will eat and sleep in company for months without any inclination to copulate : Indeed there is not a possibility of doing so. But, as soon as the vessels of the uterus take on a certain action, the external parts swell, are enlarged and capable of admitting the male. Impregnation takes place, and, like a vegetable, the fruit sets and the flower withers. There is no more admission for the male till some months after parturition, when the parts are in the same situation, mentioned before, by the vessels taking on the same action as before.

The illustrious Haller, says, “ Since none but the human species are properly subject to this menstrual flux of blood, (although there are some animals, who, at the time of their vernal copulation, distil a small quantity of blood from their genitals,) and since the body of the male is always free from the like discharge, it has been



a great inquiry in all ages what should be the cause of this sanguine excretion, peculiar to the fair sex.—*First Lines*, 856.

If we compare the parts of generation of animals to the parts of fructification of vegetables, we will discover as many classes of animals as there are of vegetables, with the several distinctions of perfect, imperfect, hermaphrodite, monoecious, dioecious, &c. The viviparous animals may be compared to the dioecious class of vegetables, as the parts of generation and fructification grow on different animals and vegetables: and, it is well known, that, if the male and female plants are not within a certain distance, that the flowers of both are evolved in vain, and drop off, without any impregnation or fruit being produced.

After having attempted to prove that the discharge of a small quantity of sound blood from the parts of generation of the female of the human species, at a certain age, and at periodical times, so far from being the “most curious phænomenon, and the most difficult to be accounted for,” on the contrary, is as easily accounted for as any other evolution or addition in the human body; and is strictly analogous to every evolution or addition which take place in other animals, and even in vegetables.



The cause, as I mentioned above, I neither know nor have the presumption to attempt to explain. I know that an egg, when exposed to a proper degree of heat, will produce a chicken; and, that a pea will produce a stalk, six feet long, adorned with flowers, succeeded by fruit; but, of the cause, I know nothing.

This appearance in the human species is nothing but a characteristic which distinguishes it from other animals; and, for very evident reasons, unnecessary to be mentioned to the reader of moderate discernment.

I will next make some observations on the opinions of several very eminent physicians, on what have been called idiopathic diseases, under the names of dyspepsia, chlorosis, cachexia africana, schrofula, &c.

Dr Cullen has treated amenorrhæa, chlorosis, dyspepsia, hypochondriasis, &c. as all distinct primary diseases. I will copy the symptoms of these supposed diseases, from Dr Cullen's works, and will place the symptoms of other diseases, and supposed diseases, beside them, that the reader may be able to compare them with greater ease.

I will then endeavour to account for these symptoms, and prove them to be nothing more than symptoms of one primary or idiopathic disease.

As Dr Cullen says, amenorrhæa, chlorosis, hypochondriasis, &c. are accompanied with symptoms of dyspepsia, I will copy these symptoms first, and desire the reader to apply them to the other diseases, along with such symptoms as are there mentioned.

As the Edinburgh Practice of Physic seems to contain Dr Cullen's practice, I shall take the symptoms from that publication; but, to avoid mistakes, shall confine myself in some cases to his First Lines, published in 1796, by his annotator, Dr Rotherham.

I will transcribe from Dr Saunders's Treatise on the liver, his symptoms of chronic inflammation of that organ; and also, Dr Thomas's symptoms of *cahexia africana*, commonly called dirt eating, which, he says, is a very frequent disease among the negro slaves in the West Indies.

Dr Cullen\* says, "It is by no means easy to define, exactly, the distemper, called dyspepsia, when considered as an original disease, as there are very few maladies, which, some way or other, do not shew themselves, by an affection of the stomach; and much more difficult still must it be to enumerate all the symptoms. The most remarkable, however, and the most common, are the following:"

\* Edin. Pract. of Physic.



# GENERAL TABLE OF SYMPTOMS.

| 1                                     | 2                                    | 3  | 4                                      | 5                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| SYMPTOMS OF DYSPEPSIA.                | SYMPTOMS OF CHLOROSIS.               | SYMPTOMS OF CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER. | SYMPTOMS OF CAHEXIA AFRICANA.          | SYMPTOMS OF SCROFULA IN CHILDREN.      |
| Want of appetite.* - -                | Dyspepsia. - - -                     | Dyspepsia - - -                                | Dyspepsia, - - -                       | Aversion to food.                      |
| Pain in the region of the stomach.* - | - - -                                | Pain in the right hypochondrium, -             | Constant pain of the stomach, -        | Enlargement and hardness of the belly. |
| Distention of the stomach.* - -       | - - -                                | - - -  | Despondency, - - -                     | Gloomy.                                |
| Dejection of spirits - -              | { Sad, - - -                         | - - -  | Indulgence in grief, - - -             | Considerate.                           |
| Languor, universal laxity } - -       | { Thoughtful, } - - -                | - - -  | Love solitude, - - -                   | Heavy.                                 |
| Aversion from motion } - -            | { Love, Solitude. } - - -            | Diminution of strength and flesh, } -          | Inactivity, - - -                      | Indolent.                              |
| Squeamishness* - - -                  | - - -                                | - - -  | General debility, - - -                | Lassitude.                             |
| Stomach distended with flatus. -      | Fond of eating lime, chalk, -        | - - -  | Fond of eating clay, called            | Fond of gross farinaceous aliments,    |
| Eructations* - - -                    | ashes, salt. -                       | - - -  | dirt eating, - - -                     | and of things not fit for diet.        |
| Limpid } - - -                        | Vitiated appetite, nausea. -         | Indigestion. -                                 | - - -                                  | Insatiable appetite.                   |
| Acid } - - -                          | Dislike to proper food. -            | Flatulency. -                                  | - - -                                  |  |
| Putrid } - - -                        | - - -                                | Acidity of stomach. -                          | - - -                                  |  |
| Food brought up. -                    | - - -                                | Difficulty of breathing, and of                | Difficulty of breathing. -             | Obstinate costiveness.                 |
| Palpitation. -                        | Breathing difficult, - -             | lying on the left side. -                      | Costiveness, - - -                     | Light coloured stools.                 |
| Difficult respiration - -             | - - -                                | Costiveness, - - -                             | Stools of a white clay colour, -       | Gripping pains.                        |
| Head-ach, giddiness, cardialgia.* -   | - - -                                | Light coloured stools, - - -                   | - - -                                  | Shiverings.                            |
| Obstinate costiveness* - -            | - - -                                | Quick pulse, - - -                             | - - -                                  | Hectic.                                |
| Colic pains - - -                     | - - -                                | Heats with chills, - - -                       | Face olive coloured, -                 | Face { Bloated, deadly pale,           |
| Pulse { Quick or slow, - -            | Pulse { Quick, weak, - -             | Pale sallow complexion. - -                    | Paleness of the tongue, -              | { Sallow, dingy.                       |
| Weak - - -                            | Low, - - -                           | - - -  | Lips and palms. -                      | Eyes dead, disposed to weep.           |
| Face livid - - -                      | Face { Pale, green, } - -            | - - -  | - - -                                  | Peevish.                               |
| - - -                                 | Livid, yellow, } - -                 | - - -  | - - -                                  | Diarrhœa.                              |
| - - -                                 | Lips lose the red colour. -          | - - -  | Skin cold to the touch, - -            | Extremities cold.                      |
| Interrupted sleep. -                  | Eyes { Sunk with a livid circle } -  | - - -  | Extravasation of water in the cellular | Body and limbs bloated.                |
| Frightful dreams. -                   | round them. } -                      | - - -  | membrane. -                            | Atrophy.                               |
| Peevish, fretful, - -                 | Mind becomes irritated by slight } - | - - -  | Urine scanty. - - -                    |  |
| Incapable of business, -              | causes } -                           | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| Tremor. -                             | - - -                                | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| Vomiting.* - - -                      | Food occasions vomiting. -           | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| Diarrhœa - - -                        | - - -                                | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| Salivation - - -                      | Feet cold - - -                      | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| - - -                                 | Anasarca, - - -                      | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| Anasarca - - -                        | Leucophlegmasia, -                   | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| - - -                                 | Body covered with a soft             | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| - - -                                 | swelling. - - -                      | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| Ataetes - - -                         | - - -                                | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| - - -                                 | Atrophy - - -                        | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |
| - - -                                 | - - -                                | - - -  | - - -                                  |  |

1. Edinburgh Practice of Physic.

2. Edinburgh Practice of physie.

3. Dr Saunders on the Liver.

4. Dr Thomas's modern practice of Physic.

5. Dr Beddoes' Hygeia, No. 6.





If the reader will compare the symptoms in the different columns, he will be struck with the exact similarity of them. They are mere synonyms of one another; and it is impossible to refuse assent to their being all effects of the same cause. If the symptoms of any disease in one person so minutely resemble those in another, will any physician say, that they are different diseases? He must be convinced, according to the philosophical axiom, that similar causes produce similar effects, under similar circumstances. And that things, being equal to one and the same thing, must be equal to one another. If the symptoms under the head of dyspepsia, and those under the other diseases, are exactly similar, which is the primary disease? Is dyspepsia the cause or the effect of chronic inflammation of the liver? It must be either the first or the last, or it must be the same. The same may be said of *cahexia africana*, *chlorosis*, *hypochondriasis*, *melancholia*, *ascites*, &c. as the symptoms of all these are very similar.

Physiologists have agreed that the liquor secreted by the interior coat of the stomach, when in its most healthy state, promotes the solution of the solid food taken down. That it has a very powerful effect in doing so has been proved by many experiments. The middle part of the

thigh bone of a sheep was introduced into the stomach of a dog; the dog was killed six or eight hours after; the inner substance of the bone was dissolved, and nothing but a very thin tube, the external surface, remained, which would have been dissolved in a few hours. This experiment proves that the acrimony of the gastric liquor dissolves the substances exposed to its action; and, that they are not destroyed by the power of friction, as was formerly supposed by the mechanical physicians; as the external part of the bone, as being the hardest, was the last in being dissolved.

The illustrious Baron Haller\* points out the action of the stomach on the food, to the following purpose :

“ Into this stomach, the aliments are let down, often almost crude, and but little chewed, of various kinds; some of them being alkalescent, as flesh-meats; rancescent, as oil, or fat substances; or acescent, as bread, milk, and most of the vegetable kind. These are digested in an heat equal to that of an hatching egg, administered to the stomach by the contiguous spleen, liver and heart; and this, in a cavity, altogether close or confined above, as it is also below, by the ascent

\* First Lines, sect. 648.

of the incurvated pylorus, and in a great measure by a shutting valve, and likewise constricted by a muscular force of the fibres; from whence even milk itself is often retained in the stomach of strong animals several hours after a meal, without passing into the intestines. Observe again, that these aliments are continually cohobated, or moistened, with watery juices; and, at the same time, are replenished with a good deal of air incorporated with them, either naturally or in mastication.

“ While this air is extricated the aliments, by long stay, begin to corrupt or change into a nauseous liquid, often acescent; or otherwise putrescent.”

“ This putrescency is almost the only cause of digestion in fish, serpents, and carnivorous birds. Hence, in mankind, metals themselves, by long stay in the stomach, grow soft and are eroded.

“ But that the aliment might not degenerate into a complete acidity, there is a check from the putrescent degree of heat; the power of the juices distilling from the stomach, and that of the saliva itself swallowed to the amount of half an ounce in an hour, and rather inclined to alkalescency: and by the very frequent regurgitation of bile into the stomach: also, these juices being ground together with the aliment, mace-



rate, soften, and dissolve the fibres themselves, and their cellular bands, leaving them a soft pulp, like what we see by letting them stand a long time in warm water, extract their juice, and mingle with themselves. There is, therefore, no particular ferment in the stomach; from which, the design of nature, the disposition of the stomach, and its use, are all very remote. And yet the juice of the stomach alone, by its longer stay in fishes, dissolves the bones which they had devoured.”

It is evident that the gastric liquid is of a very acrimonious nature. It has been known to destroy the coats of the stomach itself after death: That unless it is corrected by a sufficient quantity of sound bile, secreted by the liver, it must occasion many unpleasant sensations and incurable diseases.

The learned author, last quoted, (sect. 715) says, “ The hepatic bile is always bitter, but the cystic is more so; always viscid; of a dull yellow colour, with a tincture of green; miscible by triture with water, oil, or vinous spirits; coagulable by mineral liquors; dissoluble by alkalies, especially the volatile kinds; and extremely well adapted to dissolve oily, resinous, or gummy substances; quickly putrifying, and by putrefaction spontaneously degenerating to



a musk-like odour. Being mixed with the food, slowly expressed from the stomach, by the peristaltic motion of the duodenum, and the pressure of the abdominal muscles, it corrects the acid disposition of the aliments, dissolves coagulated milk, greatly disposes the food to putrify, dissolves oily substances, that, mixed with water, they may constitute part of the chyle, and enter the lacteals: it attenuates and clears away mucus; lastly, by its acrimony, excites the peristaltic motion of the intestines. All which offices are confirmed by observing symptoms, the consequence of the want of bile; nor, will the hepatic bile answer the purpose of stimulating the bowels, if the cystic is wanting; and, so great is its use, that it is found, if the bile is not suffered to flow into the intestines, from the destruction of the gall bladder, that the strongest animals perish in a few days."

Dr Saunders\* says, that "one important use of the bile is to stimulate the intestines, and perform the office of a purgative; for when the excretion is impeded, as in jaundice, the intestines, being deprived of their natural stimulus, become torpid, and costiveness ensues.

This torpor is diffused by sympathy over the

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\* Treatise on the Liver, p. 126.

system, and languor and lassitude prevail :” There is more than sympathy ; there is direct debility from want of good chylication. The same author, speaking of jaundice, says, “ In this complaint, the passage of the bile into the intestine is either completely obstructed, or very much impeded ; but, there are no symptoms which clearly manifest a defect of chylication.” It is impossible a patient can recover from jaundice, unless the bile is restored to its proper channel ; nor, can I discover what causes a person in that disease to look yellow, black, and emaciated, unless it be the obstruction of the bile, and a defect of chylication. If the bile is of no other use than that of a stimulus, we have many equal and stronger stimuli, and as bitter ones too ; but, I never heard of any artificial stimulus, however bitter or strong, that could promote the appetite, digestion, and chylication, if the natural, healthy bile was wanting.

It seems the most essential of all the secretions concerned in chylication, and is well qualified to answer a variety of useful purposes ; and it is of no consequence, whether it constitutes any part of the chyle or not ; as has been disputed. We are certain a great part, if not the whole, passes off mixed with the fœces, to which it gives the yellow colour.

The last ingenious author gives an experiment to ascertain the above opinion:

“ A dog was fed with animal food, and in three hours the abdomen was opened. A portion of the duodenum, of considerable length, was cut open. Portions of food, reduced to a putaceous mass, were seen oozing through the pylorus; the bile was likewise observed to pass slowly out of its duct: which, when carefully attended to, appeared to flow over the surface of the digested matter, adhering to the intestine. Upon removing the bile from the surface of the digested matter, it did not appear to have mixed with it in any sensible degree.” The experiment seems to be left short: If another dog, fed in the same manner, had been allowed to remain unopened six or more hours, appearances would have been very different. It is likely the bile would have been intimately mixed with the food, and part, or all, converted into fœces.

Having pointed out the nature and uses of the bile, from the best authorities, and the indispensable necessity there is for its free passage into the duodenum, for the digestion of our food, I shall make some observations on the table of symptoms.

The symptoms of dyspepsia are extremely nu-



merous, but Dr Cullen† says, those marked \* “are symptoms which frequently occur in the same person, and therefore may be presumed to depend on one and the same proximate cause. In both views, therefore, they may be considered as one and the same disease, to which we have given the appellation of dyspepsia”. He thinks “these several symptoms may arise from one and the same cause; that is, an imbecility, loss of tone, and weaker action in the muscular fibres of the stomach, which he concludes to be the proximate cause of dyspepsia.”

These distinguishing symptoms are so exactly the same as those in chronic inflammation of the liver, that I am satisfied they are one and the same disease. After pointing out the absolute necessity of a healthy secretion of bile, for promoting appetite, digestion, and chylication, and as these distinguishing symptoms are exactly those attending a defect of bile, is it not a wonderful circumstance, that, in Dr Cullen’s labourcd chapter on dyspepsia, he has not so much as mentioned the liver, nor used the word bile? He mentions pains in the region of the stomach, with distention, but seems to have forgot that there was any organ in the hypochondriac region,

† First Lines 1190.

\* Vid. Table of Symptoms.



except the stomach. What could so likely occasion pain and distention in that region as the liver being obstructed, inflamed, and enlarged?

He says, “\*The chronic hepatitis very often does not exhibit any symptoms of pyrexia, and it is only discovered to have happened by our finding in the liver, upon dissection, large abscesses, which were presumed to be the effect of some previous inflammation. As this chronic inflammation is seldom to be certainly known, and therefore does not lead to any determined practice, we omit treating of it here, and shall only treat of what relates to the acute species of the hepatites.”

He says, par. 423, “Although, in many cases, the chronic hepatitis does not clearly discover itself, yet, upon many occasions, it may *perhaps be discovered, or at least suspected*, from those causes which might effect the liver having been applied; from some fulness and some tenseness of weight in the right hypochondrium; from some uneasiness or pain felt upon pressure, from lying on the left side; and, lastly, from some degree of pyrexia combined with more or fewer of those symptoms.”

These are merely the symptoms attending a

\* First Lines par. 414.

slighter degree of acute hepatitis. And he recommends a similar treatment. He says, par. 417, "It has been supposed that the hepatitis may be an affection, either of the extremities of the hepatic artery, or of those of the vena portarum; but, of the last supposition, there is neither evidence nor probability." Is there no evidence nor probability of the extremities of the vena portarum being affected, when there is not the least appearance of bile in the fœces?

It is unnecessary to contend about the meaning of the word affection; it may mean inflammation, obstruction, stagnation, &c. In all cases which I took for chronic inflammation of the liver, there was no bile secreted, as was evident from the colour of the fœces, resembling that of (what is called) pipe clay. When the inflammation or obstruction was removed, there was a great discharge of black fœces during several days. That circumstance took place after the fœces had been of a pale clay colour for several months, which seem to be a sufficient evidence of the probability of the affection of the extremities of the branches of the vena portarum; nor is it probable that such symptoms as he has mentioned could continue so long without suppuration taking place.

In par. 1010, he says, “ The idiopathic cases of suppression (of the menses) seldom continue long without being attended with various symptoms, or disorders, in various parts of the body ; very commonly arising from the blood, which should have passed by the uterus, being determined more copiously into other parts, and very often with such force as to produce hæmorrhagies in these. Hence, hæmorrhagies from the nose, lungs, stomach, and other parts, have appeared in consequence of suppressed menses : Besides these, there are commonly hysteric and dyspeptic symptoms, produced by the same cause, and frequently cholic pains, with a bound belly.”

I deny that there can be an idiopathic case of suppression of the menses : there is nothing in the above paragraph to prove it ; and the hæmorrhagies, he mentions, are more likely to have been the effects of inflammation or obstruction on the liver, which had taken place prior to the suppression, and which had not been discovered. He says, (par. 420) “ That resolution of hepatitis is attended with a hæmorrhagy from the nose ;” and many authors say, that hæmorrhagy from the nose is a symptom of hepatitis. But why should the retention of a small quantity of blood occasion cholic pains, and a bound belly ? These are all symptoms of a



diseased liver. I cannot help pointing out to the reader, that though he mentions obstinate costiveness in dyspepsia, he takes no notice of the colour of the fœces; nor says a word of the state of the bowels in chlorosis. He had overlooked the liver, or never suspected that it had any share in being the cause of the symptoms.

The great anatomist and physiologist, Haller, tell us, sec. 698, “The difficult distribution or passage through the vena portarum, like that of an artery, together with its remoteness from the heart, and the oily or sluggish nature of the blood itself, occasion it to stagnate, accumulate, and form schirrous swellings in no part oftener than the liver; but this danger is diminished by the motion of the adjacent muscles, and by respiration, as it is increased by inactivity, with sour and viscid aliments.”

I have wondered that Dr Cullen never suspected the diseased liver to have any share in causing the symptoms of dyspepsia, &c. What excites my astonishment much more, his annotator adds, “It is doubtful whether this chronic hepatitis ever exists.”

That the largest organ in the system, on the healthy action of whose vessels, on the healthy quality of whose secretions, our existence depends, in the processes of digestion, chylication,

and nutrition should have been overlooked and forgot: of the diseases of which a doubt should exist, till they were discovered after death, and to be doubted when they were discovered, are circumstances I cannot account for, without the assistance of the learned annotator.

It has often been said, that the author of nature has made nothing in vain. If that most necessary fluid, the bile, could have been secreted by a gland of the bulk of a nutmeg, the liver would have been no larger than a nutmeg. The bulk of the liver must be absolutely necessary for its various uses in the animal œconomy; particularly for the secretion of the bile, and the use of the bile must be in proportion to the bulk of the liver: it is the fountain from which proceed the healthy streams, which most essentially contribute to nourish our frame, without which, our digestion, chylication, and nutrition, soon and certainly cease.

To the opinions of these two eminent physicians, I will oppose that of the ingenious Dr Saunders. He tells us, “ It (the liver) is an organ very susceptible of chronic inflammation, which, without alarming in the first instance, by painful symptoms, gradually induces obstruction, first with an increase, and frequently afterwards a diminution of its bulk; perhaps, ultimately, ob-

literating the capillary system and pori biliarii, the more immediate seat of secretion. In such cases the patient will be subject to occasional pain in the right hypochondrium, extending to the scapulæ," &c. as in the table of symptoms above.

To Dr Saunders' account of the disease, I most readily subscribe, having seen many instances of the same. And, instead of the existence of the disease being doubted, I will undertake to prove, that it is as common and frequent as the tooth-ach; that it is as easily discovered; and, sometimes, as easily cured.

A man can seldom walk through the streets, or mix in any large company, without observing several faces, "pale, green, livid, yellow," whose owners are labouring under the very disease, whose existence has been doubted; but it does not signify, it is chlorosis, and the unfortunate female is in love; and, instead of being pitied, she is laughed at.

But, if Dr Cullen and his annotator never looked for it, or felt for it, it is possible they might never discover it. To doubt of the existence of a cause, when the effects are so evident, gives one an unfavourable opinion of a physician or philosopher.

Dr Saunders says, p. 129, "It frequently oc-



curs, that bile is secreted in too small a quantity, as in hypochondriacal complaints and in chlorosis; in which diseases, an unusual degree of torpor takes place, expressed in the one case, by dejection and despair; in the other, by inactivity and languor; the stools are generally of a light clay colour, and the body is costive." Can the retention of a few ounces of blood in chlorosis occasion a diminution of bile? Is it not wonderful that the effect should be always taken for the cause? He says, in the next paragraph, "Bile, therefore, affords a stimulus, by which, tone and energy are communicated from the intestines to the whole body, the defect of which on the primæ viæ, is more productive of disease than its excess." Here, the want of bile is the cause of disease; above, disease was the cause of the want of bile!

I shall next make some observations on the symptoms of the supposed disease, which has got the name of chlorosis, amenorrhœa, or green sickness.

Dr Cullen, (First L. p. 999.) says, "the disorders attending the retention or suppression of the menses are, a sluggishness and frequent sense of lassitude and debility, with various symptoms

of dyspepsia; sometimes with a preternatural appetite.\*

At the same time, the face loses its vivid colour, becomes pale, and sometimes of a yellowish hue; the whole body becomes pale and flaccid, the feet, and perhaps, also, a great part of the body become affected with œdematous swellings. The breathing is hurried by any quick or laborious motion, and the heart is liable to palpitation and syncope; a head-ach sometimes occurs; but more certainly, pains of the back and haunches.”

The distinguishing symptom is,† “The appetite is entirely vitiated, and the patient will eat lime, chalk, ashes, salt, &c. very greedily, while food will occasion nausea and vomiting.”

The Dr says, this disease is attended with various symptoms of dyspepsia. The symptoms of the two supposed diseases are so very much a-like, that I defy any man to point out the difference. He says, the distinguishing symptoms of chlorosis is the eating of lime, chalk, &c.: whoever will compare these symptoms of chlorosis with those of chronic inflammation of the liver will also see a great similarity between them: and,

\* His learned annotator observes, “This is a very extraordinary symptom, which has not hitherto been explained.”

† Edin. Practice of Physic.

if he recollects the acrimonious nature of the liquor secreted by the stomach, when there is little or no bile to correct it, from the obstruction of the biliary vessels, he will not be surprized, that instinct alone will point out an absorbent, alkalescent remedy, such as chalk, &c. He says nothing of his dyspeptic patients, who were likely men of middle age, or more, eating lime or chalk; but, their bringing up “acid, putrid water” shews that such articles would have been useful, and indeed he recommends alkaline salts and absorbent earths to his dyspeptic patients, which proves that he thought the state of the stomach in both patients was similar, as they certainly were. As the appetite is so very much vitiated that proper food occasions nausea and vomiting, and as little nourishment can be extracted out of lime, chalk, &c. the list of synonymous symptoms may be easily accounted for: such as the pulse weak, low, veins scarcely filled, sad, thoughtful, pale, &c.; all which are nothing more than symptoms of the want of nourishment, in consequence of the disorder of the liver preventing a sufficient quantity of sound bile being secreted, to further digestion. Though the face was observed to be pale, green, livid, yellow, yet the liver was so totally forgot, that the idea of jaundice never occurred. It looks as



if he doubted the existence of the liver: the flaccidity, œdematous, anasaruous appearances are all owing to the same cause. The symptom of difficult breathing, which is common to dyspepsia, chlorosis and chronic inflammation of the liver, as well as all the other symptoms, still more prove they are only symptoms of one and the same disease. This difficulty of breathing is entirely owing to the increased bulk of the liver, encroaching on the space allotted to the lungs, which increased bulk also occasions syncope, palpitation, not only from its increased bulk, but from the circulation being interrupted. He says, in dyspepsia there were pains in the region of the stomach, and distention of the stomach. Dr Saunders says, the same symptoms appear in chronic inflammation of the liver; but as Dr Cullen does not take the smallest notice of the liver, he could not possibly think it was diseased. The next symptoms are pains in the back and loins, or haunches.

The increased bulk of the liver, its intimate connection with the diaphragm, its stretching the same in all directions, and especially the crura which are attached to the vertebræ of the back and loins, will readily account for these pains.

The cause of all these melancholy and hitherto

intractable-symptoms, Dr Cullen, says, is the retention of the menses.\*

This must be a woful mistake. Shall the retention of three or four ounces of sound blood, mixed with twenty or thirty pounds of the same kind, occasion debility, paleness and all the other symptoms mentioned above? What, in the name of physiology, can make a young woman, or any person, look pale, unless a deficiency of blood in the vessels of the skin? Or what can make her look yellow, unless there is a quantity of bile retained in the habit, and which gives the skin that colour; Except these causes, I confess I know of none; but will most willingly listen to any physiologist of superior abilities, if he will point out any other. Ask a man of common understanding, except some medical men, whether he thinks taking blood from any person would make him look pale, or the reverse? If a good natured man, he would smile at the simple question; but, if of an irascible temper, he would be apt to pull your nose, for the insulting question. Yet, such is our theory handed down to us, from the first authority. The effect has been taken for the cause, which has led to a very absurd practice.

On looking over the symptoms of the cachexia

\* First Lines, p. 998.

africana, or dirt eating, among the slaves in the West Indies, which Dr Thomas says is a frequent and very fatal disease, one is struck with the symptoms being identically the same as those of the other two supposed diseases; and, also, those of the real disease, the chronic inflammation of the liver. The Doctor allows that the symptoms are nearly the same as those in chlorosis, but says, “ they differ in this circumstance, that the latter only affects females, and that, principally, at a certain age; but, that men and boys were subject to it.” That women, men, and boys, should labour under the same disease, seems to stagger the Doctor. He allows it may be chlorosis in the females, but what can it be owing to in the men and boys? On dissection, after death, “ the liver was found of an increased size, schirrous, and preternaturally white. Biliary concretions sometimes in the gall bladder; bile of an unhealthy appearance, usually of a thin, watery consistence, of a slightly yellow or fresh colour.” Did all these circumstances fail to open the Doctor’s eyes? Yes, the universal phantom, that \* \* \* \* spectre chlorosis, started up, twitched the Doctor by the sleeve, slyly pointed to a certain spot, rivetted his attention to things below, rendered him incapable of raising his attention to things above, where he



might soon have discovered the cause of all the misery. That a professional M. D. should see the liver schirrous, &c. and never to suspect that it possibly might have some share in producing the symptoms, nor ever to examine the state of the liver before death, when he says, there was a constant pain of the stomach, when there were all the symptoms of obstructed bile, costiveness, clay coloured stools, &c. knowing, or ought to have known, that diseases in the liver are very frequent in hot climates, &c. and never to pay the least attention to the circumstances, must give the reader a very unfavourable opinion of the Author of the Modern Practice of Physic. He seems to have sucked the same nurse who reared Dr Cullen's annotator.

He says, "It evidently arises from want of energy, or vigour, in the system, induced by various debilitating causes, as grief, despondency, poor diet, hard labour, harsh treatment." Here the effects are taken for the cause, as usual. His method of cure "consists of generous diet, moderate exercise, bitters, aromatics, bark, myrrh, chalybeats, alkalies, absorbents, emetics, aloetics, rhubarb, diuretics, emmenagogues:" these seem to include almost every article a druggist's shop contains; but, unfortunately, there is not one of the smallest use to cure the primary disease,

the inflamed, obstructed, schirrous liver; and, it is not to be wondered at, if, under such treatment, it should turn out “a fatal disease.”

The indefatigable Dr Beddoes, in his *Essays on Health*, (No. 6.) when treating of scrofula, seems to have confounded the obstruction of the vessels of the liver, &c. with scrofula. He says, “The intellectual superiority of children of the scrofulous temperament has long been noticed, and it is certainly found to exist in a large proportion of cases. That sensibility or openness to impression, which is one of the principal constituents to genius, has often been observed to accompany different diseases of debility.” He gives an enumeration of the symptoms in the following table, No. 1. He proceeds; “In some cases of scrofula, however, when the disease has made considerable progress, the effect is entirely opposite; for there is a form of scrofula, in which the intellectual and other functions are equally impaired. Such cases almost universally belong to the class, marked by a symptom, easy to be distinguished, &c. The symptom to which I allude is an enlargement and hardness of the belly.”

That the reader may compare the symptoms of the two kinds of scrofula with more ease, they are laid down opposite to each other in the

following table.—Those, so much the reverse of one another, are only mentioned; the whole are mentioned in the general table of symptoms above.

## *TABLE of SYMPTOMS.*

| 1.                                  |                              | 2.   |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Symptoms of Scrofula.               |                              | Symptoms of a kind of Scrofula distinguished by a prominent belly. |  |
| Fine, }<br>Sleek }                  | Skin.                        |  |  |
| Bright, }<br>Ruddy }                | Complexion.                  | Bloated, }<br>Sallow }   | Com-<br>plexion.                               |
| Red cheeks.                         |                              |  |  |
| Large, }<br>Lucid, }<br>Beautiful } | Eyes.                        | Eyes {   | Dead,<br>Disposed<br>to weep.                  |
| Pupil dilated.                      |                              |  |  |
| Great sensibility.                  |                              | Intellects }   | Impaired,<br>Heavy.                            |
| Openness to impression.             |                              | {  | Gloomy,<br>Torpid,<br>Peevish,<br>Considerate. |
| Glands of {                         | the neck and<br>jaw swelled. | Glands seldom  | swelled.                                       |



The symptoms in the first column are the same as those mentioned by medical writers of all ages; those in the second are some of the symptoms mentioned in the general table, and which incline me to think they are symptoms of a very different disease. If the same disease, in two different patients, can be accompanied by symptoms so diametrically the reverse of one another, it is possible there may be four or six sets of symptoms in as many patients, which would create much confusion; and, as we have too much of that article already, it behoves every writer to be upon his guard, that he may not add to it.

I have seen Dr Beddoes's Eighth Essay, in which he treats of indigestion and bad spirits: these are merely the English names for Dr Cullen's dyspepsia and hypochondriasis. The symptoms he mentions are very similar to those in the general table under dyspepsia, and of course must depend on the same primary disease.

In addition to Dr Cullen's symptoms, Dr Beddoes adds, "Stretching, tearings, heavy load in the region of the stomach, under the short ribs, dragging down of the navel, pricking, starting, throbbing in the belly round to the back."

There is nothing so likely to occasion all these

symptoms, as an enlarged obstructed liver; they are all in the region of the liver, or in parts most intimately connected with it. But Dr Beddoes, possibly, never examined that region, otherwise he must have discovered a fullness and hardness under the short ribs, along with the above symptoms. I am inclined to think so, as he has scarcely mentioned the liver, in his *Essay on Food and Digestion*. He seems to have thought so little of that organ, that he says, p. 20, “The addition of the bile is not necessary to the main purpose of digestion; for the formation of chyle would appear clearly independent of the bile; since the access of the bile having been artificially prevented, chyle was nevertheless found in its proper receptacle.”

This declaration is very unsatisfactory: We are not told how long the chyle was found in its proper receptacles, after the bile was artificially prevented; nor how long the animal lived, nor whether it grew fatter or leaner; but, when it answers his purpose, the bile is “neccessary to the main purpose of digestion.” In the experiment, p. 35, of giving a child wine after dinner, “The pulse was quickened, heat increased, the urine high coloured, and the stools destitute of their usual quantity of bile.” He remarks, “The deficiency of bile is full evidence

of the injurious effect of wine upon the digestive organs ;” But, if “ the bile is not necessary to the main purpose of digestion,” the deficiency cannot be injurious to the digestive organs, if chyle can be produced without it.

The Doctor is of a very different opinion, (sect. liver complaints, same Essay) He says, “ If the size of an organ be a criterion of its importance, the liver will be entitled to rank high, it being the largest gland in the human frame. After the years of childhood, I know not if greater mortality arises from any other cause, among the higher classes, except only from an unsound state of the lungs. Nothing more completely destroys the faculty of pleasurable enjoyment, or provides a larger space for all the modes and degrees of misery, that stand in the interval between untainted health, and the last expiring agony.”

Whence these diametrically opposite opinions? May a great writer be compared to a great talker?

The symptoms of Dr Beddoes’s other kind of scrofula are so like those in the general table, that it may seem unnecessary to repeat them. I will mention them once more with some remarks.—“ The character of the countenance often differs totally from that described as denot-



ing scrofulous temperament. The face is bloated in a great degree, of a uniform sallow, eyes dead, disposed to weep, the patients are heavy, peevish, gloomy, and without relish for the usual sports of their age; considerate beyond their years; as the disease increases, the body and limbs are apt to be universally bloated; the hands and feet are habitually cold, and assume a purple hue; bowels are sluggish; torpor of body and mind." He proceeds to give the symptoms of the progress of the disease.

"The belly of scrofulous young persons is almost always inclined to protuberance: but when that affection of the glands, lodged within the belly, or of the mesenteric glands, by which the protuberance is caused, has proceeded to the length of atrophy, this appearance becomes peculiarly striking, and not only the fulness, but a hardness will be felt about the navel. A weight about the navel, griping pain, aversion to food, or insatiable appetite, or a desire of gross farinaceous aliment, or of substances not fit to be used as articles of diet. Evacuations of the bowels will have an unhealthy look, charged with slime, or of too light a colour, because the liver does not secrete bile of a proper tinging quality. The advance of the complaint is accompanied by a very offensive purging."

These symptoms so exactly resemble those of dyspepsia, &c. that I suspect they are the effects of the same cause. The distinguishing symptom, he says, is “the enlargement and hardness of the belly.” What can possibly make the belly prominent, or large, so likely as the liver being enlarged from the general obstruction of the vessels? But the liver, as usual, is kept in the back ground till the last, when he says, “the stools were of a light colour, because the liver does not secrete bile of a proper tinging quality.” And, to finish the business, he says, “The complaint is accompanied by a very offensive purging.” The Dr has not suspected that this offensive purging may be a real hepatic flux of purulent matter, from abscesses formed in the enlarged, hardened, suppurated liver. He seems to be of the same opinion of Dr Cullen’s annotator, that the liver never suffers chronic inflammation or obstruction. If these symptoms had appeared in females of fifteen, they would have been described and prescribed for, under a very different name; scrofula would never have been thought of, but the universal phantom chlorosis would have been undoubtedly the cause of all the symptoms, not forgetting the enlargement and hardness of the belly. “The appetite is bad or sometimes insatiable, a desire of gross farinaceous

aliments, or of substances not fit to be used as articles of diet.” Does the Doctor mean a desire of eating dry oatmeal, lime, chalk, &c. so much longed for in chlorosis? I wish he had mentioned the articles; probably some of them would have resembled the clay eat by the negroes in the West Indies, or the articles mentioned above, and which have been said to be the distinguishing symptom of the fore-mentioned spectre. That Dr Beddoes should never suspect that the prominent belly was owing to an enlarged obstructed liver, and ultimately the cause of all these symptoms, excites my admiration.

There is no difficulty in accounting for the fulness and hardness about the navel, when one considers, that the trunk and branches of the vena portæ being obstructed, the absorbents, veins, glands, and every part and portion of the intestines, mesentery omentum, &c. on which the roots of the same vein are spread, or originate, must also be obstructed; the blood brought to them by the arteries cannot be carried back to the heart; stagnation, enlargement, suppuration, take place.

Dr Beddoes tells us, (sect. severe study and merchants’ clerks,) that the young men are liable to what he calls hypochondriasis, from confinement in one posture, writing on improper desks,



&c. The cause here is the same as that existing at boarding schools, among young women at the age of puberty, or sooner, occasioning what has been called chlorosis, from the circulation through the vessels of the liver, &c. being obstructed, from their confinement in one posture, painting, sewing, tambouring, music, &c.

His correspondent says, “ My own stomach was once so debilitated by the toils of the desk, that it frequently refused to perform its functions; and even now the organs of digestion have not regained their proper tone; for, I am extremely subject to indigestions, and to that disagreeable sensation, vulgarly called the heart-burn.” The Dr need not have told us that the diseases hinted at above are nothing but dyspepsia, and which depends on the great idiopathic cause I have so often mentioned.

He says, “ Among hypochondriacs, I look upon the reformed rake as one of the most remarkable varieties. It can hardly be conceived, that debauchery, when it is followed by disrelish, by dejection, and impotence of stomach, should not produce peevishness also. Should they, (meaning the patients’ friends) entertain the senseless, vulgar notion, that hypochondriasis is not a real but an imaginary disease, they will infallibly aggravate it.” All the symptoms, men-

tioned above are nothing but symptoms of the same primary disease: they are all included in the symptoms under the article dyspepsia. Dr Cullen himself finds great difficulty of distinguishing these two diseases: no wonder they appear to be nothing more than shades of the same colour, and depending on the same cause, so often mentioned. Will Dr Beddoes expect to find the liver and other viscera of a rake in a sound state, after he has indulged in eating, drinking, drugging, &c.? Has he no suspicion that the liver, through which great part of the madeira, brandy, cayenne-peper, and many other semi-poisons must pass, will be in a deranged state. But, in imitation of Dr Cullen, the liver is never mentioned nor thought of in dyspepsia, hypochondriasis, &c. &c. It is wonderful that a disease, or symptom, should get a name from the very region in which it exists, and yet that region is never examined nor even thought of.

I also entertain “the senseless vulgar notion” that hypochondriasis is not a real disease; but, as I have said of other supposed diseases, it is nothing but a symptom of another disease, the effect of a cause.

The learned and humane Dr Letsom published, some years ago, “Hints respecting the Chlorosis of Boarding Schools.” These hints, for the

prevention of chlorosis, or of diseases in general, are extremely just; and, though I admire them, and wish them in every family where there are young persons of either sex, I beg to differ with him in the treatment of that supposed disease, as I have differed with other very eminent physicians.

Dr Letsom gives the same symptoms as in the general table, but instead of accusing the obstruction or diminution of the menses, as being the cause of the disease, he gives it as one of the symptoms. It is the first time I have seen it introduced among the symptoms of chlorosis. It has always been most absurdly condemned as the cause. Dr Letsom has not mentioned any cause of the symptoms. I have endeavoured, above, to account for the various symptoms attending this supposed disease; and which I have always been able to remove without vomits, bark, or steel, or any nauseous medicine.

It is unnecessary to make any observations, on Dr Cullen's opinion of the cause of the symptoms, when the uterine discharge is supprest. I refer the reader to his First Lines, where he will see the writer laboured under great perplexity, perpetually taking the effect for the cause, and at last says, in very desponding language, "nor can I explain in what manner that primary cause



of retention is to be removed.”\* As such, there is no useful information to be got from reading the chapter on amenorrhœa.

I will next make some remarks on the method of cure of what has been called chlorosis, &c. as delivered to us by our late professor, and others.

Dr Cullen† thinks “ There is but one idiopathic or primary species of chlorosis; viz. what some distinguish by the title chlorosis virginea, others of chlorosis amatoria.

“ The cause of chlorosis is thought to be an atony of the muscular fibres of the alimentary canal, especially of the stomach, joined with a similar atony of the perspiratory vessels over the whole surface of the body, and the whole depending on an atony of those small arteries, which pour out the menstrual blood. This atony may be occasioned by the same causes which bring on dyspepsia and hypochondriasis, but very frequently arises from love and other passions of the mind.”

A physician who sees a young woman look pale, yellow, &c. and directs his attention to the vessels of the uterus, supposes them in a state of atony, and accuses them of being the cause of these appearances, is guilty of as great an absurdity as any in the system of physic. The ves-

\* First Lines, s. 1002.

† Edin. Practice of Physic.

sels of the uterus are no more the cause of the bad health, than those on the back of her hand, or in the skin in general; they are all in a state of inanition, and blood is no more to be expected out of them, than milk out of her breasts. As soon as the cause of her bad health is removed, and the vessels are sufficiently filled with blood, those in the uterus will do their duty. And, if Dr Cullen had sometimes made use of the word inanition, instead of atony, his definition would have given greater satisfaction.

I have endeavoured, above, to prove dyspepsia, chlorosis, amenorrhœa, &c. are all occasioned by the same cause, and have attempted to explain the cause. But that the atony of a few small arteries, which open into the uterus, was the cause, I never dreamt of, nor was it possible for these arteries to pour out the menstrual blood, when there was none in them. “The lips lose their fine red colour; the pulse is quick, weak, and low; the veins are scarcely filled.”\* The Doctor might as well expect blood to flow out of her shadow, or out of the leg of his chair. “The veins were very scarcely filled,” they were not to be seen. And next to these “obstinately constricted”† arteries, who very innocently refused to do their duty, he says, “That

\* First Lines, s. 999.

† Van Swiet, 1291.

love, &c. frequently occasion all these wonderful symptoms."

I am by no means inclined to deny, that disappointment in love may be felt as a great misfortune by a young woman. And we know that grief and all the depressing passions have a great effect on the circulation, by rendering it slower and weaker. They also impair the appetite and digestion. In consequence, where the circulation is slowest and weakest, stagnation and obstruction are certain to take place the soonest. I need not point out to the learned reader where these vessels are situated; they are not in the uterus; they are the branches of the vena portæ, dispersed through the liver, where the blood is known to move very slow and with the least force, for the express purpose of secreting that most useful fluid, the bile. There the obstruction begins; the secretion of the bile ceases; and, as was mentioned above, that fluid is of such indispensable use in digestion, that the appetite soon fails; there is little or no good blood made by the unfortunate love-sick maid. She loses her rosy cheeks, &c. and all the long list of symptoms follow. There, whether from disappointed love, or any other disappointment, the idiopathic or primary cause of all the melancholy list of symptoms, enumerated in the



column of the table, and I could add several more, such as hypochondriasis, melancholia, ascites, leucophlegmasia, &c. has its seat. A most fatal disease, which, I am sorry to say, our illustrious preceptor and his annotator never discovered, till it was too late. This paleness, from loss of appetite and digestion, is among the first symptoms taken notice of by the young woman's friends and the public. She must be in love. This sentiment is of very ancient date.

Palleat omnis amans, hic color est aptus  
(amanti.\*

And, at the present day, a physician no sooner sees a pale, greenish-yellow complexion in a young woman, but it is, Yes, Yes! It is the green-sickness. And begins his operations accordingly, as will be described afterwards.

When the unfortunate female is reduced to great weakness, she is said to become "irritable and love solitude;" I have often been witness to conversations which might make any young woman of common modesty shew a spirit of irritability and shun company. Her female as well as male visitors are often telling her of a remedy, I am ashamed to mention, which would

\* Every love-sick maid is pale,  
That colour suits a lover well.

cure her; but which Dr Cullen mentions in tolerable plain English. Such expressions can be called nothing less than obscene jests, and must be unsufferable by a young inexperienced female of a moderate share of virtue: nor could it be a surprize to her friends, if the suffering female should apply the remedy so often recommended, when all her bitter, stinking draughts have failed of relieving her. Nothing but the want of inclination could withstand such advice; but that has long left her, along with her good health, nor can there be either love or lust about her. And what is worse, if she could apply the remedy, it would have no good effects.

I had some time ago a young man under my care, whose liver was in a state of chronic inflammation. On his asking what his disease was, I told him it was the same disease which occasioned young women to look very pale, &c. and had got the name of green-sickness. And, as I had formerly heard him join in the cry of recommending matrimony to the ladies, when their complexions were as described, I proposed to him to shorten his courtship and get married. No, he said, I must wait till I get into better health, at present I have no inclination.

I replied, I believed him, and begged he would never, in future, jest, throw out reflections, or

show his wit on the unfortunate girls who should be in a similar situation.

As I have quoted the sentiment of a very ancient poet, who, I suppose, knew the opinion of physicians in his day, I will present the reader with a quotation from one more modern. And, as he figured in high life, would naturally know the opinions of physicians in his time. It is supposed to have made part of a dialogue between two married ladies at a watering place. The sentiments are so very like those of our modern physicians, that there seems no occasion for an apology for inserting them in this place, as will appear very soon.

They're introduced, "With girl just fit for  
man,

Short breath'd, with pallid lips and visage wan.

With hand in hand they lovingly did walk,

And one began thus to renew the talk.

And pray, good madam, if it be not thought

Rudeness in me, what cause has hither brought

Your ladyship? She soon replying, smil'd,

We've got a good estate, but have no child;

And I am told these wells will make a barren

Woman, as fruitful as a cony warren.

The first return'd, for that cause I am come,

For I can have no quietness at home:

My husband grumbles, though we have got one;



This poor young girl, but mutters for a son.  
And this is griev'd with head-ach, pangs, and  
throws,  
Is full sixteen, and never yet had *those* ;  
She soon replied, get her a husband madam,  
I married at sixteen and ne'er had had '*em*.  
Was just like her, steel waters let alone,  
A back of steel will better bring *them* down."

As these have been and are the sentiments of ancient and modern physicians, no wonder they should be the sentiments and favourite conversation of our modern gentlemen as well as ladies.

Dr Cullen says,\* “ The symptoms of amenorrhœa, shew a laxity and flaccidity of the whole system ; and therefore give reason to conclude, that the retention is owing to a weaker action of the vessels of the uterus.. † How that flaccidity arises may be difficult to explain ; but I would attempt it in this way.”

“ A certain state of the ovaria disposes the female to the exercise of venery, at the time the menses appear. That the state of the ovaria has a great share in exciting the action of the uterine vessels, and producing the menstrual flux.

But, analogous to what happens in the male sex, a certain state of the genitals is necessary

to give tone and tension to the whole system ; and, therefore, if the stimulus arising from the genitals be wanting, the whole system may fall into a torpid and flaccid state, and from thence the chlorosis and retention of the menses may arise.”

After condemning the vessels of the uterus for not discharging blood when there was none in them, he now accuses the ovaria for not stimulating or exciting the vessels of the uterus to discharge blood. And still taking the effect for the cause, he tells us, that a certain state of the genitals in the male gives tone and tension to the whole system ; meaning, I suppose, the secretion of the seminal fluid, and that if a young man does not produce this seminal fluid, he falls into a torpid and flaccid state.

The reverse of all this is so evident, that it is needless to argue about it. If a young man or woman have not a sufficient tone or tension ; that is, if they have not a good, strong, healthy constitution ; or, if they should fall into any disease, which might debilitate the constitution, and prevent a sufficient quantity of sound blood being produced ; there will be neither tone, tension or erection ; and neither the one nor the other will be able to produce the necessary secretions.

In consequence of his theory, he attempts to

restore the tone of the system, and bring on the uterine discharge, by

1. Exercise.
2. Cold bath.
3. Warm bath to the lower extremities.
4. Tonic medicines.
5. Purging.
6. Emmenagogues.
7. Electricity.
8. Compression of the iliacs.
9. Stimulants applied to the uterus.

Some of these remedies are similar to those he recommends in dyspepsia, hypochondriasis, &c. and, according to his system, with great propriety, as they are only symptoms of the same disease, and are attended with similar appearances. But the original idiopathic disease, the cause of all these effects, so far from being removed or cured, is rendered more obstinate and incurable by the application of eight out of nine of them, and, except gentle exercise, there is not one of them proper for restoring the wished for discharge.

#### I. EXERCISE.

It appears that gentle exercise does not satisfy some physicians ; walking, dancing, friction, &c. are recommended by Dr Cullen as sufficiently



strong exercise. I observed, lately, a very economical method of exercising a supposed chlorotic woman, which was placing her on the box beside a London coachman, and driving her roughly over the stones; with a view, I suppose, of shaking the blood down from the head and shoulders, and forcing it to find some hole to escape at below. There would be also much of the favourite application, friction, applied to the vessels near the uterus. I do not remember where I met with such good advice, but think it was in one of the periodical, monthly, medical publications, proposed by the physician who draws up the account of diseases in some of the districts or dispensaries; in which there is always a very respectable number of amenorrhœas, chlorosis, dysmenorrhœas, dyspepsias, hypochondriasis, and other imaginary diseases, but which are all only symptoms of one and the same idiopathic disease.

The display of so great a number of patients, under almost every disease, looks like business; but, as we are not made acquainted with the mode of treatment, nor the result of the practice, whether successful or otherwise, the enumeration seems of little use to the public: Its place might be occupied with a more useful subject.

## 2. COLD BATH.

Let any man look over the column of symptoms under chlorosis, and declare his opinion, whether a weak young lady, "short breasted, eyes sunk, covered with an universal cold swelling," &c. should be tumbled into a cold bath; and whether he would not be afraid, that the small spark of heat still remaining would be extinguished. The patient's feeling must be extremely painful; but, what is worse, the primary disease will be aggravated.

3. WARM BATHING OF THE LOWER  
EXTREMITIES.

Without hinting that the cold bath and bathing the legs in warm water appear contradictions, I cannot see any of the symptoms that can be relieved by it. The legs cold, swelled, anasarous and dropsical, will not be reduced to their healthy state by the warm bath, either total or partial, nor has it any power of encreasing the circulation through the vessels of the uterus.

## 4. TONIC MEDICINES AND CHALYBEATS.

These are bitters, bark, preparations of iron, green, blue and white vitriols, alum, logwood,

&c. They are all diametrically opposite in their effects to the medicines proper for removing the cause of this symptom, as such must aggravate it, and in a short time render it incurable.

#### 5. PURGING.

There is not a symptom in the column, for the removal of which a prudent physician would recommend purging. Dr Cullen recommends it, as likely to determine the blood into the descending aorta, and ultimately into the vessels of the uterus ; and, for that purpose, ordered the strongest, viz. aloes, scammony, colocynth, &c. in hopes, that as the uterus lay contiguous to the rectum, the stimulus might be communicated to the former, and oblige the empty arteries to discharge red blood.

#### 6. EMMENAGOGUES.

These consist of the most abominable drugs with regard to taste, smell, and activity, of all the materia medica. Many of them nearly allied to poisons ; such as aloes, cantharides, colocynth, savin, hellebore, scammony, stinking gums, green, blue, and white vitriol, &c. God preserve the poor girls ! That a delicate young creature, in a state of great lassitude and debility,



pale, green complexion, liable to palpitation, syncope, &c. should have the few remaining fragments of life torn to atoms, by being condemned to swallow such acrid, drastic drugs, which in case of necessity might be given to a coach horse! Even these, powerful as they are, have not the smallest good effect in removing the supposed disease; nor has there ever been discovered a specific for exorcising, or a palliative capable of laying this infernal spectre chlorosis, which has inclined physicians to recommend the most powerful medicines, the most extraordinary methods, and the most obscene advice that could be devised. Dr Cullen tells us,\* “The various medicines, under the title of emmenagogues, have never appeared to be effectual; and I cannot perceive that any of them are possessed of a specific power in this respect.”

“In Dr Hume’s Clinical Experiments† we find the virtues of several emmenagogues, set forth in the following manner. Chalybeats seldom or never succeeded; they were always found more useful in diminishing the evacuation, when too violent, than in restoring it, when deficient. The tincture of black hellebore proved successful only in one of nine or ten cases, though given to

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\* First Lines, 1006.

† Encyclop. Britanica, art. Amenorrh.

the length of four tea spoonfulls a-day, which is double the quantity recommended by Dr Mead. Compression of the crural artery, recommended by Dr Hamilton, in the *Physical and Literary Essays*, vol. 2. proved successful only in one of six cases. From the effects produced by this compression, it has the strongest appearance of loading the uterus with blood; from the sensations of the patient, it produces the same effects as the approach of the menses, and has every appearance in its favour, yet does not succeed. Dr Hume supposes that the uterus is more frequently in too plethoric or inflammatory a state, in which case this remedy will do more hurt than in a state of inanition; however, he owns, that in the case in which it did succeed the patient was plethoric and inflammatory;" here, the theory and practice were at variance.

"Venesection is recommended as an excellent remedy; the Doctor gives three instances of its success, and says he could give many more. It acts by removing the plethoric state of the uterus, relaxing the fibres, and giving the vessels full play; so that their action overcomes all resistance, and the evacuation takes place." Here Dr Hume says, the fibres are too tense, that is, they have too much tone, the vessels are in a plethoric state, which occasions the suppression. Dr

Cullen says, the want of tone is the cause of suppression. But, if Dr Hume brought on the discharge by compressing the iliacs or crural artery, and, as he says, "loading the uterus with blood," theory and practice are at variance again, and the opinions of the Doctors are diametrically opposite. \* \* \* \* "The powder of savine is a most powerful remedy, and proved successful in three cases out of four in which it was tried. It was given to the quantity of half a dram, twice a-day. It is a strong topical stimulus, and seems improper in plethoric habits." I am at a loss to know where he recommends this strong topical stimulus to be applied. Does he mean *sub tegmine pubis*, where Hippocrates\* "applied cantharides and goose grease?" But, if he cured three out of four with the powder, there is no occasion to apply any other medicine which he has proposed.

"Madder root, according to Dr Hume, is a very powerful medicine in this disease, and proved successful in fourteen out of nineteen cases in which it was tried, being sometimes exhibited to the quantity of two scruples or a dram, four times a-day. It has scarce any sensible effect; never quickens the pulse, or excites inflammatory symptoms: On the contrary, the heat, thirst, and

\* De Natur. Mulier. cap. 18.

Nothing more incorrect than the  
The subjects laughing at



other complaints abate; and, sometimes the symptoms are removed, though the disease be not cured; but, when it succeeds, the menses appear from the third to the twelfth day.”

The last remedy, which the Dr calls powerful, is not so strong as the savine, if we compare the cures in proportion to the number of patients.

In the result of the practice, we have

| CASES. | CURED. | BY                                |
|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 10.    | 1.     | Tincture of black hellebore.      |
| 6.     | 1.     | Compression of the crural artery. |
| 4.     | 3.     | Powder of savine.                 |
| 19.    | 14.    | Madder root.                      |
| 5.     | 3.     | Bleeding. But the Doctor does     |
| —      | —      | not mention the number of         |
| 44     | 22     | patients. Suppose 3 out of 5.     |

Only one-half cured by the various medicines and applications, which is no great recommendation of the methods proposed.

It appears from the want of success, in trying the methods and medicines above, that none of them were effectual in all cases, It may be supposed, that the symptoms in general, the constitutions and causes of the suppression had been different. Dr Hume says, “Some of the patients were plethoric.” I never met with a suppression in a plethoric patient, except owing to some accidental cold, or irregularity, which com-

mon prudence removed in a short time, without medicine, as the discharge returned at the expected time. I except also pregnancy; many single women in that situation have consulted me; but, if they were plethoric, could eat and sleep well, I never exhibited savine or hellebore, but gave something like a medicine, to amuse them for a month or two, and prevent them having recourse to quack medicines, &c. till the affair was discovered; or, till an abortion could not be easily effected. They were sensible, at least suspicious, they were pregnant, having been exposed to the cause of it, and acknowledged that they had not *been so*, for two or three months.

#### 7. ELECTRICITY.

Dr Cullen says, (F. L. 1006) "One of the most powerful means of exciting the action of the vessels in every part of the system is the electric shock; and it has often been employed with success, for exciting the vessels of the uterus."

The electric fluid is well known to have a powerful effect on the circulation; and, if applied properly, with a view to remove the cause of the suppression, it may be attended with good effects, and is one of the best auxiliaries I know of.

## 8. COMPRESSION OF THE ILIAC ARTERY.

Dr Cullen says, “ Trials of this kind hitherto made have seldom succeeded.” Though they have seldom succeeded, they may have succeeded as often as many of the other applications. Dr Hamilton mentions six trials he had made, and cured only one of the number. It would have been wonderful if he had been more successful, as the operation was suggested on erroneous principles, as mentioned in a former page.

As the operation is of a most indelicate nature, I sincerely hope no young lady ever was unfortunate enough to be the subject of it: it is probable the patients were objects of charity, and had been obliged to submit to it in the ward of an hospital. Among such, there are often suppressions, owing to causes very different from those of love-sick maids; and where the cure is not brought about, without more effectual remedies than the compression of the iliac artery. As the medical reader understands how the operation is performed, it is unnecessary to describe it; as I should be sorry to offend the most delicate eye or ear in any part of this publication; supposing it may fall into the hands of certain readers, who may not be in the habit of reading



medical or surgical publications. It appears to me, to have been invented by some wicked practitioner, to try what a young woman would submit to, for the sake of recovering her health: And, as the operation, so far as we are told, has been crowned with little or no success, a man must be wicked indeed to endeavour to re-establish it.

#### 9. STIMULANTS APPLIED TO THE VESSELS OF THE UTERUS.

Dr Cullen, says, (1011) “In idiopathic cases of suppression, the indication of cure is to remove the constriction affecting the extreme vessels of the uterus; and for this purpose, the chief remedy is warm bathing applied to the region of the uterus. This, however, is not always effectual;” and, in desponding language, as before, says, “I do not know of any other remedy adapted to the indication.” But, he afterwards adds, the removal of the constriction “is to be attempted, by the same remedies as those prescribed in the case of retention;” among which, he says, “The exercise of venery certainly proves a stimulus to the uterus; and therefore may be useful when with propriety it can be employed.”

Here the Doctor makes a distinction between suppression and retention, which certainly is a distinction without a difference, as they are both effects of the same cause.

I deny that there ever was an idiopathic suppression or retention, where there was no malformation or disease in the parts. Even in case of malformation, or disease of the uterus, the suppression or retention cannot be called idiopathic.

We are now come to the last remedy, and one in which the Doctor puts great confidence. It is not uncommon for a physician, when he has been baffled with a disease, and finds he cannot remove it, to propose a remedy which he knows cannot be procured: such as advising a tradesman of moderate circumstances to give up business and take a voyage to Lisbon; or to go and live half a year at Bath; or to leave the town and take a house in a country situation, for the sake of better air, &c. when he is certain that neither of the schemes are within the patient's reach. He will tell the world, that, as he did not go, he died; that, if he had gone, he would have been alive.

This last advice of Dr Cullen's is exactly of that nature. After a young lady has been drenched with the medicines mentioned above,

and submitted to the operation hinted at in the last section, without any relief, the remedy in this section is warmly recommended, viz. “the exercise of venery, when with propriety it can be employed.”

I know of no opportunity of employing it with propriety, except in the state of matrimony; but with ladies in that state we have nothing to do, according to the opinion of medical writers; for let a married woman labour under any disease whatever, she is never suspected to labour under chlorosis; although I have seen several cases in married women, and also in some who had much greater indulgences than married women are expected to have, labouring under this very supposed disease. The Doctor recommends the remedy to the unmarried only. He says, “Indulgence in venery has sometimes been said to produce a cure, particularly in love-sick maids.”\*

But how is a love-sick maid to get this remedy employed with propriety? It is only such, according to the general opinion, who require it, and to such only it is recommended.

“Short breathed, with pallid lips, and visage wan.” There is never a man will look at her, except to laugh and make a jest of her. What

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\* Encyclop. Britannica, art. Chlorosis.



must be done then? I leave the reader to answer the question, as I confess I have not one ready. Of this I am confident, that if the remedy could be applied, it would have no more effect than any of those mentioned above. And we are told, from high authority, that there is no specific remedy for chlorosis.

What miserable attempts, what shameful, obscene advice, what injudicious, consequently ineffectual methods have been adopted, what gigantic arms have been taken up to fight a ——— shadow, to cure a disease which never existed!

I have denied that retention, or suppression of a certain discharge, called chlorosis, amenorrhœa, &c. ever was a primary, or idiopathic disease; I have pointed out the absurdity of the opinion, that retention of blood can ever possibly occasion paleness; I also deny, that the vessels of the uterus, except in schirrus, &c. are ever in a state of atony, constriction, or incapable of discharging blood when there is a sufficient quantity in the habit; and I am inclined to think that these are nothing but symptoms, the effects of some disease, or of debility, the consequence of some disease, or of a naturally weak constitution; but chiefly the symptom of an obstruction or chronic in-

inflammation of the liver. The last is as common as any disease, infectious ones excepted. I have pointed out the uses of the bile in a sound state and in sufficient quantity, to be of the most essential use, and of the first consequence in digestion, and, consequently, of health; and that the want of it is a certain cause of the want of health, of weakness, and of all the long list of symptoms enumerated under the heads of dyspepsia, &c. in the Table of Symptoms.

I will now point out the symptoms of a chronic inflammation, or obstruction of the vessels of the liver, and will endeavour to trace them from the first, in such a manner that any parent, guardian, master, or mistress of a boarding school, may detect the insidious disease in a very short time.

The obstruction begins and continues some time in a slow, deceitful manner; there is little or no pain, sickness, or any considerable inconvenience for the space of some weeks, or even months. The first symptoms are indolence, languor, laziness. She does not relish her breakfast as usual, dislikes buttered toast, or bread and butter, and prefers dry toast. The appetite is weak in general, and vitiated; she has not her usual spirits; her healthy, fresh complexion fades. Her former sparkling “never silent”

eyes, dangerous to be looked on, now, like the sun behind a cloud, may be looked on with safety, but with pity.

When she is reminded of her former venial, rompish tricks, she returns a cold languid smile, accompanied with a deep sigh; signifying as much as if she said I am very ill, but cannot tell how or where. Instead of her usual fresh, healthy complexion, a pale, or greenish yellow colour, prevails. The veins in her neck, hands, &c. disappear. There is very often an unusual fulness, and hardness under the edge of the ribs in the right side, painful when pressed. I have seen several cases where the fulness in the region of what is called the stomach was so large that the virtue of the young women was suspected, and the invidious neighbours had begun to whisper, loud enough to be heard at the distance of several yards. In some there is a pain in the back and loins; in others, a pain is felt at the collar bone; in others, a pain in the shoulder or shoulder-blade. When the fœces are examined, they are of a pale clay colour, and costive. If she ever has been regular, or, what I call flowered, the discharge diminishes gradually, till it ceases.\* There is no time now to be lost. The parent,

\* To those symptoms may be added, most of those in the general table under chlorosis.



&c. begins to be alarmed; but, instead of consulting the Doctor, consults too often the newspapers, and there sees a remedy recommended for the supposed disease, and for all diseases of all ages and sexes.

I have known several young women obliged to swallow a variety of these never failing remedies for six months, before any regular advice was asked; and, after a regular practitioner had been consulted, there was no alteration for the better, during twelve months. The universal phantom, green-sickness, haunted him like his shadow; that every thing was given, which could only increase the disease. It is not unusual for medical as well as unmedical men, when they see a pale, green countenance to say, she has the green-sickness, she must be in love; get her a husband.

Parents, and all others intrusted with the care of young people, ought strictly to watch their appetite, looks, spirits, &c. particularly of the females, as I confess they are more liable to the disease than boys of the same age, on account of their more sedentary way of life; as, about the age of puberty, they are more confined to sit at needle work, painting, music, &c. Their growth is very often rapid about this age, and consequently they are more feeble, and the circulation

is weak. Obstructions are consequently more likely to take place, as observed above.

At the same time, boys, girls, men and women are subject to it as will appear soon. I also request them to endeavour to change their opinions about the cause of the symptoms, and instead of thinking the paleness, and all the other appearances of bad health are owing to a small quantity of sound blood being retained in the habit, which every person of common sense would expect to occasion the reverse of paleness, that they are all owing to a deficiency of blood, from a bad digestion, in consequence of the want of bile, occasioned by the vessels of the liver being in a state of obstruction. And they may depend upon one thing, that the vomits, bitters, bark, steel, &c. &c. so commonly given, will certainly render the disease more obstinate, and at last incurable.

I have more than once had an opportunity of listening to an examination something like the following :

*Phys.* And pray Maa'm, what do you think is the matter with the young lady?

*M.* Indeed Doctor, I cannot tell, she has been much out of health of late, has lost her fresh colour; her spirits; is indolent; has no wish to play or work; sleeps ill, and cannot tell what she would eat.

*is perfectly correct in this  
ment - I flattered myself  
had - as I thought*

*Ph.* How long has Miss been in this way?

*M.* She has been looking ill for six months.

*Ph.* How old is Miss?

*M.* She will be sixteen next month.

*Ph.* How has Miss been in a *certain way*?

*M.* She used to be very well formerly, but since her health began to decline *they* have been lessened; and she has *seen nothing* these two last times.

*Ph.* Hah! that's the business; I hope I will be able to bring *them* back in a short time; perhaps, the next period.

Upon my taking the liberty of hinting, that there seemed a considerable fulness and hardness in the region of the stomach, he replied, without examining it, that it did not signify, it was chlorosis. And so ended the investigation.

Miss was ordered an emetic, her legs to be put in warm water, an anodyne at bed-time, and next day, and many a day after, compelled to swallow many a bitter, stinking draught, &c. Next period arrived; no appearance. Medicines of a more active nature were ordered; such as go by the name of emmenagogues, formerly noticed. Another period; no appearance of *them*.

During all this, the insidious enemy, the primary disease, and the cause of all Misses sufferings, was making his fatal progress, in a very

*has treated the subject in more entertaining & correct manner he treats the learner*



different and more essential organ than the uterus. He had made a lodgement in the liver many months before ; but the Doctor's attention was rivetted to things below. The ——— spectre chlorosis started up, filled his eye, he never saw the primary disease, because he never looked for it ; but kept combating a symptom. The inflammation was communicated to the diaphragm, thence to the lungs : Miss began to cough and spit up purulent matter, and died of what was called consumption. The Doctor's character was saved : for who can cure consumption ?

And sorry I am to think such theory and practice have been attended by many such fatal consequences. And many blooming beauties have been laid in a premature grave.

I beg leave to introduce part of another conversation to my reader.

*Pb.* Gardener, Why has that apple tree failed to bear like the other trees of the same age ?

*G.* Please sir, it stands on a wet, cold clay ; it is not in health, and did not flower this year. I mean to drain the wet from it, dig about it and dung it, and make no doubt but it will flower next year.

*Pb.* You may dig and dung as you please ; but its not flowering must be the cause of its bad health.

The gardener made no reply; but said, in a low voice, if my master knows no more of physic than of fruit trees, G— pity his patients.

I mentioned above, that there was a fulness and hardness in the region of the stomach. I have always found more or less unnatural fulness and hardness in the liver in young women, and others of greater age, when I was consulted on account of the discharge not appearing. It is a common observation of women in general, that a young woman is swelled at the stomach when she is not what they call regular; and they express their fears, that it is nothing but *them* lodged about the stomach, because she has been so for several months past.

This swelling, so very common, is not once mentioned by Dr Cullen, among the symptoms of amenorrhœa, dyspepsia, &c. from which it is obvious he had never seen, felt, or looked for it. It is the greater misfortune, because it is the idiopathic disease, of which his dyspepsia, amenorrhœa, chlorosis, hypochondriasis, &c. are only symptoms. This essential organ, the liver, may suffer chronic inflammation several months before the patient is sensible of it. The branches of the vena portæ, and pori biliarii at last are obstructed, and incapable of secreting a sufficient quantity of sound bile; for want of which, the

same, digestion is impaired, the appetite fails, and all the long lists of symptoms, mentioned in the table, make their appearance. All which, he unaccountably supposed, were owing to three or four spoonfuls of sound blood being retained in the vessels of the patient, which should have been discharged monthly.

A great deal more might be wrote on this interesting subject; but the want of time and opportunity obliges me to defer making any more observations, seconded by the desire to comprise the substance in a small compass. I hope enough has been wrote to incline the unprejudiced reader to pay some attention to the subject. The above apology, I hope, may also serve for any incorrectness the reader will meet with too often.

Whatever opinion the learned reader may form of the above theory, I can with great satisfaction and confidence assure him, that the practice founded upon it has, during the space of thirty years, been so successful, that I shall never have occasion to vary it, while the constitutions of the human species continue as at present.

I will conclude with describing a few cases in different ages and sexes, (some of which had been treated as chlorosis,) by which it will appear that this supposed disease is not confined to females of fifteen.



One reflection I cannot decline making: If the above theory is just and right, that of the illustrious preceptor, as being diametrically opposite, must be wrong. And when I consider the extensive circulation of his writings, and the numberless pupils he has instructed, supposing they adopt his theory, in their treatment of the supposed disease, I tremble, when I think of the havoc that must be made of the most amiable part of the creation.

### CASE I.

*AUGUST 15, 1795.*

Miss E. F. about eighteen years old, had been in a bad state of health about three years; was very much emaciated; a pale, greenish colour; her strength exhausted so far, that she was only able to walk gently about the house, or in the garden; her appetite was very weak; had constant violent pain in the region of the stomach; had taken a great quantity of medicines, as she said in general terms, they were often changed, and supposed she had taken almost every thing the shops contain. Among others, had taken repeated emetics; was often mortified, by being told by her physician, &c. that the pain was occasioned by something improper she had eaten,

when she was conscious that she had eat nothing but the common diet of the family, and very little of that.

The case I suppose had been taken for what has been called chlorosis, as there had been no uterine discharge for many months. She was condemned to eat animal food, without vegetables; to drink a few glasses of wine after dinner; and was forbid to taste fruit of any sort. As the family was opulent, and able to command the best medical advice, I asked no questions of herself or family, when I met them at a mutual friend's house.

After such a continuation of sufferings and mortifications, the family as well as young lady herself despaired of her recovery. Being on a visit, I was ordered to examine into her situation, and prescribe any course of diet or medicine I thought might relieve her misery. Her diet was particularly disagreeable to her, especially the wine.

After observing there was little cough or expectoration, or hectic symptoms, I examined the region of the stomach, where the pain was fixed. The right hypochondrium was very hard, the liver projected beyond the ribs, and felt so fixed that it seemed to adhere to the peritoneum; and very sore when gently pressed. The pain was

constant; she could not find an easy posture in bed; consequently, got very little sleep.

As the disease had been of such a long standing, and probably rendered obstinate by the treatment, I could not give a favourable prognostic; but, to comply with the commands of the family, I ordered some medicines, of the alterative, aperient, attenuating kind, assisted by a diet of the lightest animal food, broths full of vegetables, light puddings, as much ripe fruit as she chose, water, or small beer, without wine.

Though surfeited by a long course of disagreeable medicines, and despairing of a recovery, she confessed, the idea of the diet being changed to one she so often wished for inspired her with fresh hopes; and, having naturally great resolution, took the medicines very regularly. In the space of a month, the bulk, hardness and pain in the region of the liver, were considerably lessened, and by the month of November she discontinued all medicines. Her health and strength increased, and she has continued in health, in every respect, till this time, January, 1803.

In the space of two years, the female servants, to the number of six, two men and two women in the village, were attacked by the same complaint; but, as the disorder was soon detected, by their complexion resembling that of the young



lady, they were easily cured by similar medicines. The great number of similar cases in the same village inclined them to form a positive opinion that the disease was infectious.

## CASE II.

JUNE 22, 1798.

Miss Y—— from a distant part in Scotland, was at a celebrated boarding school in York; had been in a similar situation as the last young lady, with respect to the state of her health and symptoms; was attended by one of the first physicians many months; complained of great pain in what she and her medical attendants called the stomach. The pains were taken at one time for nervous, at another time for rheumatism. She had taken many medicines, most of them of the aromatic, hot kinds. Some of them so much so, that they affected her mouth to such a degree that she could not swallow them.

As medicines had no good effect, she was ordered to bathe in the sea. Fortunately a very much respected friend of mine, and who had been a patient some years before, for a complaint similar to Case I. was lodged in the same house, and observing that Miss Y——'s complaints resembled those she had experienced, got leave to

write to me: I received a very minute statement of the case, and having full confidence in my friend's discernment, I had no hesitation to order medicines, &c. similar to those in Case I. I forbade sea bathing, but advised her to go to the sea side, for the sake of being at liberty, and of using gentle exercise. I received very flattering accounts from time to time of Miss Y——'s symptoms abating; and in the beginning of the following year I was happy to see Miss Y—— in full health, who expressed her gratitude at a short interview on her way home.

### CASE III.

Mr K. above thirty years old, had been much confined to writing and accounts; was often affected with violent head-ach, want of appetite, &c. In August, 1801, he was ordered by his physician vitriolic acid, vomits, bitters, aromatics, opiates, mercurials, and spirituous volatile applications to the head. The head-ach attacked periodically in the evening, was supposed to be and was treated as an intermittent, with very strong preparations of bark and bitters in strong white wines. These having no good effect, diaphoretics mixed with calomel and opium were tried; a blistering plaster on the neck; the head

was ordered to be shaved, and cold water applied. Some of his complaints, such as a pain in the right side and shoulder, made me suspect that the liver was affected. On my examining that region, he complained of great soreness, when I pressed on the part under the short ribs, towards the kidney. The above-mentioned course lasted, with short intermissions, till April, 1802, when he began to take medicines similar to those in the former cases. In the course of seven or eight days he began to discharge great quantities of black fœces, which continued about ten days. The pain in the side abated, his head-ach, &c. ceased, and he has continued in good health ever since.

As his symptoms were very numerous, I shewed him Dr Cullen's List of Symptoms of dyspepsia, and desired him to make a mark at each symptom he recollected to have felt, during his illness. He marked the following: Want of appetite, distention of stomach, dejection of spirits, decay of strength, languor, food not digested, stomach distended with wind, gripes, sickness, food brought up, palpitation of heart, head-ach, giddy, heartburn, costive, disturbed sleep, frightful dreams, peevish, fretful, incapable of business, tremor. These were all removed in the space of three weeks.

About the same time Mr K——'s father, a



brother, his daughter, about twelve years old, his house-keeper of fifty, and a servant maid were affected in a similar manner, and were recovered by a similar treatment.

#### CASE IV.

*DECEMBER 29, 1796.*

Mar. C——, five years old, had been very healthy, and though a twin was as large as single children of the same age. By the report of a servant, who had the charge of him and his brother at a country house, he had began to grow thin about a month before I saw him: His face was pale with a slight tinge of yellow, a great fulness in the right hypochondriac region, complained of great pain when the part was touched; the pulse 80; not full nor hard; no cough nor thirst; very little appetite; no foulness on the tongue. He began to take alterative medicines, similar to those given in the former cases. January 4, 1797, Took a purging draught; voided a great quantity of dark brown fœces. 8. Complained of pain in the umbilical region; took some worm medicines; stools continued brown, mixed with pieces resembling colourless jelly, and supposed to be worms partly dissolved.

15. Pain about the navel increased ; a blistering plaster was applied over the part, which in five hours discharged a very great quantity of serum. Antimonial medicines were given to occasion nausea, and gentle vomiting ; brought up some bile ; his complexion grew better ; the pains in the belly abated ; as he could take no food, broth glisters were given frequently. The antimony was continued in smaller doses. 19. Took several effervescing draughts ; pulse small, 120 ; respiration 40 in a minute. 22. Vomited a small quantity of liquid, with a number of dark red fibres floating in it. The draughts were continued. 23. Pulse and breathing the same. 26. In the evening, grew worse, slept none, much weaker, and died in the afternoon of the following day.

The viscera were examined on the following morning. The liver was found about twice the bulk of its natural size ; of a darker colour than usual ; great part of the right lobe was black. The gall bladder was full of black bile, and so viscid as to require a strong pressure to force it through the cystic duct. The spleen was large, hard and black. The peritoneum contiguous to it was of the same colour. Pancreas natural, as were the stomach and intestines, except a

slight tinge of red under the umbilicus, where the plaster had been applied. No appearance of inflammation in the peritoneum, nor of worms in the intestines. A small quantity of dark brown fœces, in different parts of the bowels. Kidneys and bladder sound. The left lobe of the lungs was completely filled with blood, and felt as solid as the liver. The right lobe was nearly half filled, so that very little air could be taken into the lungs, which occasioned his quick laborious respiration. The surface of the lobe was studded over with what appeared like thick set small pox in the early stage of the disease. No inflammation in the pleura nor mediastinum.

### CASE V.

*JUNE* 24, 1798.

Mar. L. about eight years old, had been observed for the space of three weeks to be dull; lose his appetite; had an aversion to exercise; head-ach. During the last few days had vomited frequently. A little blood had dropt from his nose.

1. A physician was called; said the disease was typhus fever; ordered a neutral anodyne draught, and next day a neutral julep.



2. A bolus of four grains of calomel, and opiate draught at bed-time.

3. I saw him for the first time, and was told the above account of the symptoms. He was in a dosing state; his eyes half shut; an aversion to light and noise; head-ach; squinted occasionally; pulse 130, weak; vomited suddenly, and with great ease, particularly after drinking; fever high in the afternoon.

4. Continued much as yesterday.

5. The physician not attending since the first day, another was called, who said the disease was entirely in the head, and that it would probably end in hydrocephalus. Ordered leeches to be applied to the temples, and two grains of calomel, to be given every three hours. Fever ran high in the afternoon; pulse 126; head-ach; aversion to light; squinted occasionally; tongue foul and brown.

I asked him if he had any complaint or pain. He said he had a pain in the stomach; and when I was examining, he complained of great soreness when the right hypochondrium was pressed. There were considerable fulness and hardness in that region; the other symptoms as before; pulse, in general, 120; moderate fever in the evening; abated in the night. Leeches were repeated the next afternoon,

6. Discharged several large black stools last night; was easier and better this morning; pulse as last. No head-ach; came down stairs; several more large black stools.

7. More dull; eyes mostly shut; pulse 120; not so hot as in the former afternoons; head-ach; took an anodyne these two last nights; tongue clean; dry without thirst; was ordered decoct. cert. powders continued; several black stools.

8. and 9. The same as on the 7th.

10. Took twelve grains of pulv. scammon. c. calomel. had four or five stools in the afternoon, of a dark green colour; skin as cool as when in health; pulse 116, small.

11. Took food several times yesterday, which he had not done for several days before. The pain and hardness in the hypochondrium gone, and very little fulness remains to be felt.

12. Skin hotter; pulse 120, very weak.

13. Took the purging powder last night, and a table spoonful of infus. sen. tart. in the morning, and to be repeated every hour till he is sufficiently purged.

14. Had three stools in the night, and five to-day; some were brown, some natural, some gelatinous, resembling worms partly decayed.

15. Breakfasted in the parlour; skin cooler

than natural; pulse 100, weak; seems low; sighs frequently; has no complaint; tongue clean; no thirst; little appetite; has taken 50 grains of calomel; appearance of fulness in his gums; calomel to be discontinued.

16. As yesterday.

17. Ditto.

18. The mercurial powder to be given once a day.

19. Continues dull; sleeps well; unwilling to rise at the usual time; keeps dosing till noon; eyes half shut; aversion to light; perspires profusely on his face; pulse 96, very weak. The bark was given in decoction and he recovered.

These are some of the many cases I have met with. Tho' the patients were of very different ages and sexes, their diseases were all owing to the same cause, an obstruction or inflammation of the vessels of the liver. As I have given a variety of cases, it seems unnecessary to increase the number, as I could only repeat what has been said before, which would increase the bulk of the book, and look like ostentation. I wish that what has been wrote may incline some of my readers to turn their attention to the subject; to pity and endeavour to relieve, instead of laugh at, the suffering females, who may apply for their assist-



ance; and hope, when the disease is better understood, that the present mistaken, vulgar opinions will cease, and give place to those of a more rational kind. And that the most lovely part of the creation will, in future, escape all indelicate, illiberal reflections, which are pardonable in the unlearned, but are a disgrace to the physician; and sorry I am to say, that with him they originated. And in the writings on which I have been making these observations it is evident, that the same disgraceful sentiments are continued.

FINIS.

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## ERRATA.

|                     |                   |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <i>P.</i> 7, l. 15, | <i>For</i> that   | <i>read</i> the |
| 11, 5,              | calamenia         | catamenia       |
| 9,                  | thas              | that            |
| 13, 25,             | umbelical         | umbilical       |
| 14, 12,             | <i>dele</i> other |                 |
| 16, 13,             | anatominists      | anatomists      |
| 20, 3,              | amnes             | omnes           |
| 21, 19,             | roll              | roll'd          |
| 28, 13,             | transcribe        | transcribe      |
| 35, 7,              | putaceous         | pultaceous      |
| 37, 15,             | hepatites         | hepatitis       |
| 64, 20,             | ;                 | .               |
| 101, 9,             | cert,             | cort.           |



